

attention than usually falls to the lot of a clergyman in his early years. The result was that he was much in demand by other congregations, and in 1857 he accepted a call from Knox Church, Boston, Mass. (afterwards known as Columbus avenue Presbyterian Church). His ministry then was extremely promising, though brief, for in 1859 he returned to Ontario, at the strong invitation of the Presbyterian congregation at Belleville, where his labors were abundantly crowned with success. Here he remained surrounded by a devoted people and winning the reputation of a man of scholarly tastes and earnest purpose. He was now known extensively throughout his church and the important congregation of Knox Church, Ottawa, secured him as its pastor in 1870. The growing importance of the capital of the Dominion, not only politically, but in a social and religious sense, opened up a most promising field of usefulness to Mr. MacLaren, then in the prime of his powers. It was not long, however, until his gifts were directed in a new and different field; for in 1873 he was appointed by the General Assembly to the chair of Systematic Theology in Knox College, his Alma Mater. The work of this chair he continued to discharge with great ability and satisfaction, until recently, when on account of increasing years, and the duties placed upon him as principal of the college, a position to which he was appointed by the General Assembly on the death of the late Principal Caven, he asked to be relieved of his professional labors.

In the classroom his influence was scarcely second to that of his great colleague, Dr. Caven. He had a thorough grasp of his subject, was clear and pointed in his expositions, and was what is now-a-days known as "safe" in his views, or in other words, he held by the theological positions of his youth. His personal character being of the highest quality, and his disposition most kindly, it is not surprising that his students found in him not only a friend, but a deeply revered father and guide, while his large experience and extensive knowledge of the conditions in, and affairs of, his church, enabled him to give the young men attending the college sound practical advice and wise counsel. When he first became a professor, the church required and expected the assistance of her able sons in the professoriate as well as in the pastorate, in carrying on her work, and Mr. MacLaren, already well known to the people and ministry alike, did not seek to