

One of the greatest schoolmasters who have given themselves to moulding the youth of Canada was Mr. John Strachan, M.A. (Aberdeen), who arrived in Kingston on the last day of the year 1799, to take charge of the school in that town. That Mr. George Okill Stuart had given up in order, first of all, to continue his studies at Harvard and, secondly, to become ordained as second Rector of York. After nearly three years Mr. Strachan also was ordained and removed to Cornwall, where he continued his school in addition to doing parish work in his Mission. There he lived till June, 1812, making a great reputation for himself among his chief patrons, the wealthy Nor'-Westers of Montreal, and laying the foundation of the immense influence which he wielded in the Canadas down to the year of his death, 1867.

In June, 1812, he succeeded George Okill Stuart as Rector of York and of the Grammar School, but the War of 1812 prevented him for two or three years from paying much attention to his little parish or to the school. From 1815 to 1823 the latter flourished under his administration and that of his assistants, one of whom was Mr. A. N. Bethune, Bishop of Toronto from 1867 to 1879. In the year 1823 Dr. Strachan became President of the General Board of Education for the Province; in 1827 he brought home from London the Royal Charter for the University, of which he was President *ex officio* till 1849; in 1829 he became head of the Governing Body of U. C. C., the Founder having requested the General Board of Education to act in that capacity; a few years later the School was placed under the jurisdiction of the Council of King's College, and it thus received the benefit of his experience and advice till the University was secularized in 1849. From 1850 to the end of his life Trinity College, which he proceeded to found, the settlement of the Clergy Reserves, and the oversight of his large Diocese, which, though divided in 1857 and again in 1862, was more than enough to tax the energies of a man of his years, became his chief care.

Early in the history of U. C. C. Dr. Strachan had written to the Founder to plead for a more comprehensive programme of study than that which had been adopted by the latter and his brother-in-law, the first Principal. He based his plea on his experience of the country during the preceding thirty years. The same sort of view was presented by members of the Legislative Assembly's Committee on Education in 1832, but no change was made till the advent of Dr. McCaul in 1839, only Classical boys being eligible to become Head Boys, as Mr. Brown states. It was held to be a great innovation to have placed the French Master, and even the Drawing Master, on the Foundation rather than to have left them to be dependent upon the fees of their pupils.

"Going down the town" for drawing lessons was soon found, even in those early days, to have decided disadvantages from the disciplinary standpoint, therefore that order of things had to be replaced by a better one.

Hebrew, German, surveying, and logic were among the new studies introduced by Dr. McCaul, the first and the second of them being taught by Mr. Hirschfelder, known down into the eighties by many generations of University College men as Lecturer on Hebrew. In Dr. McCaul's time also, even more than in Dr. Harris', the Seventh Form, which the