

THE FIERY CROSS

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OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.

I.

THE LATE VERY REV. ÆNEAS MACDONELL
DAWSON, V. G., L. L. D.

LITTLE more than a week before the death, last December, of this typical, large-hearted, broad-minded Scot—or, Scottish-Canadian, as he probably would have preferred to be called—the present writer met him for the first and the last time. Personal acquaintance, however, is not always the surest gauge of a man's worth. "I am a gentleman," says the Gaelic proverb, "but don't ask for any part of my store." Dr. Dawson was a gentleman who voluntarily gave of his store—of his unbounded energy, his intellectual and moral forces and example for the welfare of his less fortunate fellow-men; and also for the instruction and entertainment of his social compeers. The numerous obituary notices of him that appeared in the Ottawa and other Canadian papers unmistakably testified to his popularity, and to the high esteem in which he was held by all who knew him. One of these notices, that which appeared in "The Owl," written by Mr. Henry J. Morgan of this city, (Ottawa) has since then been republished in an "In Memoriam" pamphlet, and to its pages we would recommend such of our readers as may wish to know more about the subject of our sketch than it is possible for us to give in the space at our disposal.



Born at Redhavern, Banffshire, Scotland, on July 30, 1810, it will be seen that he was well beyond the allotted span at the time of his death. The record of his career in his holy office shows it to have been marked with ability, with zeal, and with toleration, to a degree that made him specially adapted to the community of mixed creeds among which he moved; and that procured for him popularity and respect among all classes. No better illustration could be had of Father Dawson's breadth of mind in this respect than there is found in the fact of his having preached side by side with the Rev. Mr. Herridge, of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, this city, when they acted in their joint capacities as chaplains to the St. Andrews Society.

But it is as a Scottish-Canadian we wish to write of him. In his young days a Page of Honour to King Charles X. of France; in his old age, Chaplain to the St. Andrew's Society of Ottawa; learned and patriotic to an eminent degree, he was a perfect store of history and tradition; of reminiscence, redolent of an active and well-spent life. His historical and antiquarian researches were happily fruitful in the discovery of the "Quigerich," or Crozier of St. Filan, which he transferred to the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland; and in the discovery of the famous Cromarty Bowl, which passed into the possession of his family by right of inheritance from the ancient Earls of Cromarty.