

to write his life or estimate his work has not come, and may its coming be long delayed. We are standing too near the figure to see its just proportions. All that is now needful is a few paragraphs that may mark, not altogether unfittingly, the opening of his second quarter-century of professorial service in Knox College. Those who know him will read nothing new or unfamiliar; those to whom he is but an honoured name may catch some glimpses of a man who stands easily in the front rank of the few great men of which Canada can boast.

William Caven was born in the parish of Kirkcolm, Wigtonshire, Scotland, on December 26th, 1830. His early education began under his father, Mr. John Caven, a school teacher and superintendent and a man of high mental endowments and blameless life. In 1847, the family removed to Canada and lived for many years in the Township of North Dumfries. In those days the professional studies of candidates for the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada were carried on in the Synod's seminary in London under the Rev. William Proudfoot, whose name should be held in grateful remembrance, not only for his genuine abilities and personal worth, but also for the great and important work he did in the foundation period of our Church's history. In his student days Dr. Caven's work gave indications of the special lines in which he afterwards became distinguished. In 1852, at the age of twenty-one, he was licensed to preach, and was inducted pastor of the congregations of St. Marys and Downie, in which charge he remained until 1866. In that year, having been previously lecturer for several terms, he was elected to the Chair of Exegesis and Biblical Criticism in Knox College. In 1870, he succeeded Dr. Michael Willis as Principal of the College, which position he still holds with honour to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the Church.

During these twenty-five years' residence in Toronto, Principal Caven, although living in the comparative quiet of collegiate life, has been one of the striking figures on the street. Twice a day during the college session you may meet him on the avenue, and each time the current of your thought will be checked. You will take another look at that long, spare form, slightly stooped, clothed in severe black, and crowned with a broad, soft hat, and you will think again of that thin face, always thoughtful, sometimes