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## GOLDWIN SMITH, LL.D., M.A.

Professor Goldwin Smith was born at Reading on the 13th of August, 1823. His father was a physician, who gave his son the advantage of attendance at the best educational institutions of England. He received his early training at Eton, and did much more than his share in winning honors for that justly celebrated school during his university course at Oxford. His career there was remarkably successful. He first entered as an undergraduate of Christ Church, but being elected to a demyship in Magdalen he completed his course in that college. During his course he won the Hertford and Ireland scholarships. He ranked first-class in classics when he graduated in 1845, and obtained the Chancellor's

prizes for Latin verse, and for the Latin and English Essays, thus early giving evidence of that great ability to use the English language which has since earned for him so distinguished a place among the writers of modern times. Two years after graduating he received a Fellowship in University College, and became one of its tutors. He was called to the Bar in the same year, but he never practised law. He soon earned for himself a position in his college. He was recognized as an independent and practical thinker, capable of grappling with great problems, beyond those which lay immediately in his path. He was able to discover difficulties, and to suggest the means for removing them. His ability was early appreciated and rewarded by the Government, who appointed him, in 1850, Assistant Secretary of the Royal Commission to enquire into the general condition of the University of Oxford; especially in relation to its revenues, discipline and studies. He

was Secretary of the second Commission appointed to report in regard to Oxford. He had also the great privilege and the high honor of being a member of the Royal Commission instructed to examine into the state of Popular Education in England. In this position Mr. Smith did good service for his country, and had at the same time the opportunity of acquiring a thorough practical acquaintance with the actual condition and the pressing needs of the English schools. The knowledge then gained has since enabled him to deal intelligently with the educational problems of his native and of his adopted land. He became Professor of Modern History at Oxford in 1858. This position he retained until 1866, fulfilling its duties in such a manner as to attract the attention of the highest authorities in England. During this time his reputa-

tion crossed the Atlantic, and his decided stand in favor of liberal reforms in educational and religious matters gained for him many admirers in America. He was a warm supporter of the North during the American civil war, and wrote and spoke strongly in favor of the abolition of slavery. He first visited the United States in 1864, and returned in 1868, having accepted the position of Professor of English and Constitutional History in Cornell University. Mr. Smith still retains this position, although he resides in Canada. In 1872 he removed to Toronto. He at once took a prominent position in educational circles. He was appointed a member of the Senate of the Toronto University, and was elected by the Public School Teachers of the Province of Ontario their first representative on the Council of Public Instruction. In this position he labored most faithfully

until with the change of departmental management from a Superintendent to a Minister of Education, the Council ceased to exist. He was for two years President of the Provincial Teachers' Association. In that capacity he gave the utmost satisfaction; and it is one of the boasts of the Association that, unlike most of its ex-presidents, he still remains one of its active members. In addition to the many public lectures which he has delivered on educational subjects, he has identified himself with public education in his adopted country by his courses of lectures on History, given to the ladies of Toronto and Montreal. During his residence in Canada, Mr. Smith has been prominently connected with the press. He was for some years editor of the *Canadian Monthly*, and was a leading writer on the staff of the *Nation*, a weekly newspaper which aimed to reduce the violence of party feeling in Canada, and to lift politics above mere personal



(From a Photograph by Hunter & Co., Toronto).

warfare. He has been a voluminous writer during the past twenty-five years, and has published the following works: "Rational Religion and the Rationalistic Objections of the Bampton Lectures for 1858;" "The Study of History;" "Foundation of the American Colonies;" "Irish History and Irish Character;" "The Empire;" "England and America;" "The Civil War in America;" "Three English Statesmen (Pym, Cromwell, Pitt), a course of lectures on the Political History of England, 1867;" "The Experience of the American Commonwealth;" "Essays on Reform, 1867;" "The Reorganization of the University of Oxford, 1868;" "The Irish Question;" "The Relations between America and England," being a reply to a speech by Mr. Sumner, 1869. His style is pure, clear and very vigorous, and his language remarkably select. He is undoubtedly stamping his impress upon the literature and the history of his time, and Canada has reason to be proud of her adopted son.