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REV. S. S. NELLES, D.D., LL.D.

Although still a comparatively young man, the subject of this sketch has been for more than a quarter of a century at the head of one of the most important educational institutions in this Province—a position which he reached before he was thirty years of age. It is impossible to give in this place any adequate idea of the services he has rendered to Victoria College since he first became connected with it. He found it with a small staff of teachers, a limited attendance of students, and defective educational appliances, and greatly hampered in its operations for want of adequate financial support. As the result to a very great extent of his admirable management, it has now a large and efficient staff of professors, a numerous and rapidly increasing body of students, greatly improved facilities for imparting instruction, and a large endowment fund, a considerable portion of which has been paid up. Be his future connection with the institution long or short, Victoria College will, as long as it endures, remain a monument of the unwearied energy, indefatigable zeal, and rare tact which he has brought to the discharge of his duties.

Dr. Nelles is a native of Ontario, his birthplace being Mount Pleasant, in the vicinity of Brantford. He was born in 1823, and resided in the same neighbourhood till he was sixteen, receiving such an education as a rural district at that time afforded. In 1839 he went to Lewiston Academy in New York, where he spent a year, and he afterwards spent other two in the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary. Meanwhile, Victoria College had been established at Cobourg under the presidency of the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, and Dr. Nelles became one of its earliest students, spending two years in an Arts course. After a brief attendance at the University of Middletown, Connecticut, he graduated there in 1846. The next year was spent in charge of the Newburgh Academy, in the County of Lennox, and in June, 1847, he entered the Ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, his first charge being Port Hope, where he spent a year. Two years in Toronto and three months in London completed the period of his ministerial labours, and in September, 1850, he was called by the Conference to take charge of Victoria College, the collegiate institution of his church. The immediate occasion of the establishment of Victoria College was the exclusive policy adopted by those who were entrusted with the management

of the fund set apart by the Provincial Government for the advancement of higher education. That policy resulted eventually in the foundation of King's College, which was, until secularized by Act of Parliament, to all intents and purposes a Church of England institution. The agitation, which was carried on for many years, led to the establishment of several other colleges, of which Victoria was one. The work of building, in connection with the latter, was begun in 1832, but it was a full decade before it was ready for the reception of undergraduates. It received a Royal Charter in 1836, and in 1842 it was created a University by Act of the Canadian Parliament. The College began its work with a Faculty of Arts only, the teaching staff embracing five members. A Faculty of Medicine was added in 1854, one of Law in 1862, and one of Theology in 1872. At present there is a large resident staff in Arts and Theology, the instruction in Medicine and Law being given in affiliated institutions. Dr. Nelles has from the commencement of his connection with the College been Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy, Logic, and Apologetics; and since the institution of the Faculty of Theology he has added to these subjects Homiletics.

Improvements are constantly taking place in the status of the College, the two of greatest importance during recent years being the creation of an endowment fund and the erection of a new Hall of Science in connection with the institution. The first successful attempt at forming the nucleus of an endowment was made in 1868, almost immediately after the discontinuance of the Parliamentary grant which Victoria College and other denominational institutions had been in receipt of

for many years. By dint of a good deal of effort the subscriptions to the fund have reached over \$150,000, exclusive of what has been secured for the endowment of the Theological Faculty, and exclusive also of the sum expended in the erection of Faraday Hall. This beautiful temple of science is the result of special contributions chiefly from Cobourg and its immediate vicinity, and it is safe to say that the \$30,000 expended on it could not have been put to any better use. The physical sciences have never yet been taught as they should be in any of our colleges or universities, and it must be satisfactory to the intelligent friends of Victoria that the movement in favour of more liberal culture in this direction is not to take place everywhere else before it begins to be felt in the institution for which they have already done so much



(From a Photograph by Hunter & Co.)