

while Rev. James Spencer, who was afterwards laureated in Arts, and held for years the distinguished position of editor of the *Guardian*, was teacher in the English department. The Board was composed of many of the well-known names in early Canadian Methodism, both clerical and lay,—men whose zeal and energy and limited means were unspared in their efforts to sustain this rising institution, and most of whom long since passed away. With them were associated, in the Senate and Board, by virtue of the public grant to the College, the President of the Executive Council, the Speakers of the Council and Assembly and the Attorney and Solicitor-General, Canada West.

It was but two or three years later that the call of the country came to Dr. Ryerson, and as Chief Superintendent of Education, he began his great life-work of establishing and maturing the public school system of our Province. Here we must take leave of him, as working in another field. His country, however enjoyed his services for nearly thirty years longer, and then erected his monument in enduring bronze on the site of his official labors, as a partial return for his enduring work, which is by far the greater monument of the two.

Dr. Ryerson's successor was Rev. Dr. Alexander McNab, who conducted the affairs of the college with varying success for four years. The attendance was good, and satisfactory work was accomplished. More than that, the country began to appreciate the importance of that work. The institution was writing its own history. Even in those early days of its career, men like Hon. Senator Brouse, Rev. Dr. Wm. Ormiston, Hon. Wm. Macdougall, C.B., Hon. Senator Aikins, Judge Springer, Dr. J. George Hodgins, Rev. Prof. Wright, Dr. Cameron, Hart A. Massey, James L. Biggar, and hundreds of others, had attended its classes, many of them being graduates,

and were already making their marks as well-equipped men, in achieving the distinction which they afterwards enjoyed. And thus the country came to believe that many more were to come—as, indeed, they did come.

At the close of these four years, Dr. McNab resigned the office of President, and was followed by the man whose name is interwoven with the great history of Victoria College—whose guiding hand, whose unwearied patience, and whose prodigious energy and skill, directed its affairs through the struggles and triumphs of thirty-seven years, and whose memory is precious to hundreds of devoted sons of Victoria, who crowded the old Cobourg halls during the long period of his administration.

Rev. S. S. Nelles, M.A., (afterwards D.D., LL.D.) was a young man in 1850, but one well-equipped for the work to which his church then called him. He had been a former student of Victoria, but had finally taken his degree in Arts at Middletown. On his assumption of office, Dr. Nelles at once set himself to the task of building up. Steps were taken to secure an endowment, the interest from which should supplement the provincial grant and the givings of the church. The curriculum in Arts was also extended and improved, and a more positive university character given to all the college operations. In this connection should be mentioned the acquisitions which, from time to time, were made to the teaching faculty. Professor Kingston continued his successful work in Mathematics; Prof. John Wilson, M.A., (afterwards LL.D.), a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, was secured in the department of the Latin and Greek Languages, and certainly no accurate scholar or pains-taking teacher ever more firmly secured the confidence and esteem of his admiring students. Dr. John Beatty, of Cobourg, a son of one of the founders of the institution, was appointed Professor of the Natural Sciences, and a sharp,