

MacMurchy. Besides, the preservation of a strong and striking personality is one of the best contributions to the traditions of an educational institution, and so we came to decide on the portrait as best meeting this view.

Mr. MacMurchy became Rector of the Jarvis Street Collegiate Institute in 1872, having for thirteen years before that date been its mathematical master. This period of forty years was a period of great changes in Ontario's educational system. At its beginning there were the old school houses, the old teachers, the old methods; at its close, the system as we know it to-day. In all this process of evolution our honored ex-principal played a conspicuous part, helping to eliminate the bad and to make the good better still. Yet in talking with him of the old days in the old dilapidated building at the corner of Lombard Street, he has more than once said to me: "There was good work done in that old school." And so there was. Mr. MacMurchy's sympathies have through life been conservative. I do not mean that he has voted Conservative. I do not know how he has voted, or that he has voted at all. I do not even mean that he has clung to the past with its traditions, accepting innovation with a certain reservation. The conservative spirit in him has been something subtler than this. I mean that he has placed his confidence in men, rather than in methods. The good man will prosper under the poorest system, the weak man will fail un-

der the best. There is a vitalizing, inspiring force in man that can never be found in the dull mechanism of an institution; and this is especially true in educational work. Mr. MacMurchy's conservatism would say by all means improve your methods, improve your system, improve your institutions, but, above all things, strive to perfect your men—human character. To one who so regards the phenomena of life, especially of educational life, the need for continually experimenting with fresh systems, for endless innovation is, very naturally, not apparent.

Our ex-Principal was one of the first of Canadian-trained teachers to take part in "Grammar School" work. Before his time the work had been largely done by Old Countrymen, who too often had been failures in the old land. He thus helped to form our Canadian educational ideals, as he has helped to realize them.

As a man, one of the most distinguishing qualities in Mr. MacMurchy is the absence of egotism. I have already referred to this in his preferring a scholarship to a portrait. He has been content to live in his work; I may almost say to efface himself in it, though his personality was too strong to permit of this. He sought in what he did the approval of his own conscience. There was never a desire to advertise himself: indeed, I take it, such a desire would have appeared to him intensely vulgar and not able to exist in any one, with even elementary self-respect. He reminds me of those mediæval artists who la-