

With regard to the Provost as a Professor of Divinity, I may perhaps be allowed to say a few words. He never had fair play. He was required to be a Tutor rather than a Professor. This was well enough, as things are in this country. But he was expected to teach the members of his class Hebrew, and Greek Testament, and Pearson's Notes, and Pastoral Theology, and Church Catechism. Oh those Pearson's notes! How often I wished that the Provost would dispense with some of the precision and minuteness involved in the reading of those often erabbed little bits of learning. To do all this work as the Provost did it, a man must be as he is, a sort of walking encyclopædia. That he performed satisfactorily, so far as one man could, these multifarious duties, I think most of those who have passed under his hands will bear witness.

Any conscientious man in such a position as the Provost held will necessarily run counter to some one else's views. Mr. Whitaker's case was no exception to this rule, and he found opponents in various quarters, of whom the principal was the late Bishop of Huron. It is not necessary to enter at any length into the merits of this controversy. But I think most candid persons will agree that the Provost had the best of the argument. His position was sustained by four out of the five Canadian Bishops—it was before Confederation—by a decisive majority of the Corporation of Trinity College, and in the Synod of Toronto in 1861, by a vote of eighty-four to twenty-four.

There never has been any danger that Romish views would be inculcated by Provost Whitaker. The extent of his Theological learning, the accuracy of his research, his systematic method, the judicial fairness of his decision will be admitted by nine-tenths of those who have had the advantage of his instructions, and make it impossible for him to endorse or promulgate errors of this sort. No element in his teaching has been more prominent than his scrupulous care to train his students in the tenets of the Church of England as set forth in her authoritative formularies, and maintained by her most learned and approved writers. Indeed, I imagine that the Provost has done not a little to preserve in the Toronto Diocese that moderation and freedom from irregularity either by excess or defect which so generally obtains here. The services in Trinity College Chapel have always been characterized by a very decided plainness, to say the least. And lastly, I think I may repeat now after eighteen years more trial what Bishop Fulford, the Metropolitan wrote in 1863—"I believe there is no suspicion that any one of the students, who have now during twelve years been subject to the Provost's teaching, has left the communion of the Church of England to join the Church of Rome, and as far as I can judge of the general tenor of his teaching from the text and spirit of the documents before me, whatever difference of opinion I may entertain on some points, respecting which a liberty is allowable to all, I should not believe it to be such as would lead to any such result."

As a powerful preacher and speaker, the Provost has left behind him no superior, and, few if any equals, in the Canadian Church. His manner is quiet in the extreme, and he is free from any of those stage tricks of so called oratory which are much thought of in these days. But he commands an eager and attentive hearing by his manifest sincerity, and by the value, the fulness, and the force of the thoughts which he clothes in language always chaste and graceful. When he spoke amongst us in College Chapel or Hall, in Church or in Synod, or in other places, he always had something worth saying, and it was said with elegance and simple force. The Provincial Synod, com-

posed of chosen representatives from seven dioceses, is not a body to be trifled with, or addressed except in words of truth and soberness. As a member, or as Prolocutor of that august assembly no one was listened to with more ready respect than was Provost Whitaker.

In general society, too, the Provost's loss will be deeply felt. He came to this city when it was very much smaller than it is now; his family have been for the most part brought up here, and have secured a lasting niche in the grateful memories of very many. Near thirty years' residence of such a family in a growing town identifies them with most that is best and truest in its society. In spite of a constitutional reserve almost amounting to shyness of manner, the Provost could and did converse well and freely, and could and did unbend amongst his friends in the most genial and attractive way. Doubtless there are many who will miss him and his family at their social gatherings, and who will feel that to have enjoyed their companionship has added to the brightness of their happier hours, and has perhaps sometimes cheered them in seasons of depression.

In writing thus I think that, though it be feebly and imperfectly, I am expressing the feelings of most Trinity men, past and present. We have parted with one who was to us an able teacher, a wise counsellor, a true and obliging friend. The present students of Trinity College, I believe, appreciate his many good qualities; and I venture to say that not a few of us who have gone before are indebted to the Provost for graceful tokens of interest in us after we had finished our Academical course. Many a country parson has looked forward with eager anticipation to a promised visit, has enjoyed it when it took place, and has looked back upon it with gratitude. Without parading himself before the Church, Provost Whitaker was ready, when duty allowed, to give a Sunday's help to a lonely and overtasked parson.

Well! the first Provost of Trinity College has gone from us, carrying with him into his well earned retirement not merely the admiration, but the grateful regard of most of these who knew him best. Let us hope that he may long live to enjoy the comparative leisure and freedom from care of his English benefice. His College in Cambridge has done herself honour by appointing to it one of her most distinguished sons. Our thoughts will follow him to his new home, and will shape themselves into the desire that he and his family may be loved and honoured there as they have been here.

Who will be the successor of Provost Whitaker the writer does not know. Doubtless a fresh and younger man may do much that at his time of life we could not expect from Mr. Whitaker. If true to herself and to her distinctive principles, Trinity College may do the work for which she was designed, and may maintain her place amongst the foremost of our Educational Institutions. Should a brilliant future be hers as a *Church University*, some of the praise, at least, will be due to him who, in conjunction with men like Bishop Strachan, Chief Justice Robinson, and a few other loyal Churchmen, laid here a solid foundation for the acquisition of sound learning coupled with the fear and love of God.

[The Provost graduated in first class Honors in Classics and Honors in Mathematics at Queen's College, Cambridge; was Classical Lecturer and Fellow of the same College, and Vicar of Oakington, before he came to this country. On the 1st of October, 1875, he was appointed Archdeacon of York.—Eus.]