

of this miser care and almost parental solicitude did not manifest themselves fully until the last year of his course when the wisdom which is peculiar to Seniors begins to take on wondrous growth. It is then the lesson is learned that even noble minds may have a last infirmity. That he was a good student and true let the following from the pen of B. H. Eaton, M. A., Q. C., at present Chairman of the Board of Governors of Acadia University, bear its testimony :

"I come now to probably the most brilliant class that ever took the prescribed course at Acadia, the class of 1860. There is Silas Alward, one of the most persevering, indefatigable students that ever attended our college. Of strong physical frame, with great aptitude for study, a good linguist, an ambitious young man, it is not improbable that in his daily and terminal reckoning he stood in his class where the alphabet has placed him—dux."

The writer says he was a good linguist. This is true, but, to say he was a good mathematician, a good logician, a good rhetorician, is equally true. It is not so much that he showed a peculiar faculty for a given study as that he was strong on all the subjects of the course. Others of his class might trip and forget the connection and perhaps the substance of certain paragraphs, might fail to reproduce some bewitching mathematical formula, or fail to express in adequate English some Greek or Latin lines, but Alward never. He always had his knowledge of the various subjects at ready command. "The Professor will be here in a trice, Alward; what is the meaning of this word and this: how does this passage go, and what are the formulæ for the solution of this problem: give me a clue, will you?" were words somewhat familiar to his ears. He was generally equal to the emergency and responded generously to sundry requests of this character. Thus the needy were helped, and the giver grew in the confidence and esteem of his chums.

As may be inferred, he gave his strength largely to the subjects of the curriculum. Thus thoroughness and good marks were secured. Then the temptation to do "outside" reading was not so strong as at present, and perhaps a too low estimate set upon the practice. At all events Alward was graduated in 1860 a sound and healthy scholar. His face was as ruddy, his eye as clear and sparkling, his step as firm and elastic, his voice as strong and resonant, and his ambition as regnant when he left college as when he entered it. He was graduated too with the idea that "Man is his own star, and the soul that can be honest is the only perfect man."

With admirable equipment both of body and mind he began the study of Law in the office of Hon. Charles N. Skinner, now Judge of Probate in St. John. It was while he was a law student in this office that his literary instincts began to move and dominate him. His reading became much wider than the mere reading of Law. He believed what David Swing says: "Literature is that part of thought which is wrought out in the name of the beautiful. A poem like