

and development of higher education in Ontario. To trace its history and achievement, step by step, is to write the story of Dr. Wilson's life. He embarked on the duties allotted to him with zeal and vigor. He had been installed but a few months in his chair, when the Principalship of McGill University was offered him. High as the post was, however, he felt compelled to decline it. He worked with great industry and perseverance. His extraordinary tact and versatility, his varied accomplishments, his geniality and strong common-sense served him well, and he instantly became successful in the highest degree, as lecturer, examiner, and member of the Senate and Council of the University. His elucidation of the subjects belonging to his Chair was clear and convincing, and his manner of address was so pleasing, that he was never at a loss for an audience of delighted listeners. The right word to say came to him very readily. In addition to his college work, he devoted many hours to literature, ethnology, archæology and popular science, producing valuable papers and monographs on all these departments of intellectual development. To the various transactions of the learned bodies of the old and new worlds, he was a frequent and much-prized contributor, while his lectures before public institutions, his numerous writings in the press and in the serials, his contributions to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and *Chambers's Encyclopædia* and the several books he contrived to publish from time to time, kept his name well to the front as an original and scholarly thinker. He found time too, to connect himself with such bodies as the Canadian Institute, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Ontario Teachers' Association, the Council of Public Instruction, the News Boy's Home (of which he was a founder), etc. The gentler sex had ever in him a warm friend of the cause of higher education of women. To the poor he was always kind, giving freely of his means, with the heart and sympathy of a philanthropist.

In 1881, on the death of Dr. McCaul, Professor Wilson was promoted to the Presidency of the University. The choice was a good one, and he soon gave evidence of his remarkable skill as an administrator and executive officer. Under his government the College made great strides in all its departments, and many students from all parts of Canada and the

United States were attracted to its walls. Women were admitted to the lecture rooms, and their number during the last half dozen years has increased rapidly. In favour of University federation, Dr. Wilson did his utmost to promote that laudable object, and lived long enough to witness the fulfilment of the greater part of his scheme. He saw, too, many colleges affiliate with his beloved university. Faith in her future he always had. In 1891, at Commencement Day, he said in an address: "We welcome an expansion of our resources in the realization of the long controverted scheme of university federation. A university embracing several well equipped colleges, stimulating each other in healthful and friendly rivalry, cannot fail to acquire additional strength thereby. I anticipate at no distant date, as a result of this union of our resources, the efficient organization of post-graduate work, such as cannot fail to largely increase the influence of this university as a centre of higher culture."

Always before the eyes of his students he kept in view the great moral truths. Kindly advice he ever gave to them, and all who came to him felt drawn by love and tender sympathy. In his youth, he was a companionable man. In his old age, there was no change in his relations with his fellows. To young and old the sweet simplicity of his nature was always present. On that commencement Day, to which reference has just been made, he said, turning to the host of bright young faces before him, the students of the year, who had just welcomed him with the song of "He's a jolly good fellow": "Your opportunities are exceptionally great. We seem to be at the near close of one great cycle in the intellectual life of the English race, and as we watch with eager expectancy for the promise of the new dawn, every environment is calculated to stimulate the rising generation to noble aspirations and unflagging zeal. Once before in the grand era of the Reformation, under another great Queen, the brilliant Elizabethan age shows forth in unparalleled splendor with its poetic idealist Spenser turning back wistfully to the age of chivalry and romance, and its Shakespeare, grandest of realists, mastering the supreme compass of humanity for all time. Once again, under wise and noble queenly rule, we have witnessed an outburst of genius in many respects recalling that of the Elizabethan age. But it too draws to its close. Of