



PREDICING ARTICLES: Major General September 15; Hon. Wm. Mulock, September 22; His Lordship Bishop Bond, September 29; Mr. W. J. Gage and Mr. Louis Herbert, October 6; Hon. Jas. Sutherland, October 13; Mr. Chas. R. Hosmer, October 20; Lieut.-Col. Geo. T. Denison, October 27; Principal Grant, November 3; Professor Goldwin Smith, November 10; Dr. Jas. Stewart, November 17; Mr. Geo. Gooderham, November 24.

SIR W. C. MACDONALD.

SO sensitive is Sir William C. Macdonald about having his photograph appear in any public print, that even the publishers of the "Annual" of McGill University, the institution for which Sir William has done so much, have often in the past had considerable difficulty in obtaining a picture of him for their book. Nor is this desire to avoid unnecessary publicity any mere affectation on his part. Sir William is naturally a quiet and extremely modest man.



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Easily approached, and courteous to the interviewer, he yet becomes very determined and even abrupt in his manner the moment such a thing as the giving of a photograph for the purpose of illustration is hinted at. He will not hear of such a thing. And so, the journal that wishes to give its readers his portrait has to resort to some surreptitious mode of obtaining one of the very rare photographs of this distinguished citizen of Montreal.

If system and method are elements in winning success, it is no wonder that Sir William has made a name as one of Canada's most successful business men. His private office is the tidiest and neatest I have ever been in. Verily, there is a place for everything and everything in its place.

The millionaire tobacco manufacturer is just now prominent through his princely gift of \$62,000 to establish an additional chair in geology at McGill, in memory of the late ex-principal, Sir William Dawson, but it is but yesterday that the people of the Dominion were made aware of his gift of sufficient money to establish and maintain, for three years, manual training classes in one city in each Province from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Prior to making these gifts in behalf of education, Sir William had already given \$1,650,000 to McGill University, in aid of the departments of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, mining engineering, physics, chemistry, mineralogy, architecture, law and the professors' pension fund. Such munificence entitles him to rank as one of the great philanthropists of America; and, as *The London Times* has said, if the engineering and physics departments of McGill are the most perfectly equipped in the world, as is claimed, the fact is due to the generosity of a single individual, and that individual is Sir W. C. Macdonald.

Sir William is now 66 years old, and has been a resident of Montreal for 45 years. Like so many Canadians who have made a distinguished mark, he is a native of the Maritime Provinces, his birthplace being Tracadie, Prince Edward Island. He comes of Scotch Roman Catholic stock. His father was the Hon. Donald Macdonald, sometime President of the Legislative Council of Prince Edward Island, and his paternal grandfather was Capt. John Macdonald, eighth chief of the Clan Macdonald, of Glenaladale, who, after founding several Scotch settlements in Prince Edward Island, served under the British during the American Revolutionary War as a captain in the 84th, or Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment.

Sir William, in speaking of the grant made by him for the establishment and maintenance of manual training classes, told me that there was a popular misapprehension that the object was to give technical education. The real aim was purely educational, however, and the classes would not be technical classes in any sense. They would be for the purpose of training the mind in conjunction with the hand. "As a

rule, children don't like books," said he, "and these classes will help children who have this aversion. They will handle tools, learn to do things for themselves, and come into contact with reality. In the Old Country, it has been found that manual training classes do not hinder children in their book-training, but really stimulate them in it, as they afford a pleasant change which is so gratifying to the mind that the children take to the work with avidity. The classes will be operated in connection with the public schools, and will be for boys from 9 to 14 years old."

Sir William was careful to give the chief credit for the founding of these classes to Professor Jas. W. Robertson, of Ottawa. "I found that Professor Robertson was anxious to establish such classes," said he, "and only required the means, and all I did was to put the latter at his disposal."

Thus, did this generous philanthropist make light of a gift, the amount of which he does not yet know, and will not know precisely till the close of the three years, during which the classes are to be maintained at his expense. J. A. T.

LORD METHUEN.

WE were accustomed to hear a good deal not so long ago about the degenerate aristocracy of Great Britain. That there are dissolute noblemen, as there are dissolute laboring men, cannot be denied, and perhaps the temptations of one who has wealth, social position, and leisure, are uncommonly strong and seductive; but the idea that the British nobility is on the down-grade, physically, mentally, and morally, is not borne out very well by the events of recent years. On the contrary, there seems to be a tremendous amount of virility and talent of a high order in the ranks of the aristocracy.

Lord Methuen, who has been doing some hard and brilliant fighting with his small column of troops in South Africa, is a case in point. This nobleman has had an eventful career, and his personality is most interesting. He was 54 years old on September 1, and is the third Baron Methuen, his full name being Paul Sanford Methuen. He has previously seen service, on the Gold Coast, at Ashanti, and in Bechuanaland. He was also assistant military secretary to the Commander-in-Chief in Ireland in 1877, and military attaché at Berlin from that year until 1881. He has held many other important military offices, amongst them that of commandant at headquarters in Egypt in 1882; and Deputy Adjutant-General in South Africa, 1888. He was promoted to the rank of major-general nine years ago.

Lord Methuen's frank, agreeable face is an index to his character. As an officer, he is energetic and exacting, demanding much of those under him, but not sparing himself. It is related of him that when he was in Bechuanaland, he sent out a junior officer and a squad of men with a message, which it was important should be delivered to a native chief, many miles distant, within 48 hours. The young officer, either from lack of nerve or natural incompetency, returned about 23 hours after being sent out, without having delivered the message. He claimed to have lost his way. Methuen was raging, and roundly cursed the incompetency of his subordinate. But there was no time to be lost, and a second miscarriage could not be risked. Therefore, jumping on his horse, he set out in person, with a handful of troopers behind him, and, notwithstanding that darkness had fallen, made the chief's camp in three or four hours, and was back at his own headquarters in good time to prevent anything going amiss through his absence. Then calling the young officer before him, he sternly said: "The next time I give you anything to do, sir, I want you to do it, and not to return until it is done." The lesson was a good one for the youngster, and, shortly afterwards, Lord Methuen entrusted him with another difficult commission, which was promptly and thoroughly executed.

The incident is characteristic of Lord Methuen's treatment of subordinates. He demands much of them, but never lets a man be permanently shamed or discouraged by a single mistake, so long as it is in his power to give him an opportunity to retrieve his self-respect. A. L. M.



LORD METHUEN.