

traditions of his Scottish fatherland, and of the British empire, whose integrity he so staunchly upholds. He comes of the fine old Celtic stock, almost unequalled when its enthusiasm and intensity are blended, as in his case, with an infusion of Anglo-Saxon breadth, energy and common-sense. Like many others of our leading men, he strengthened his moral muscle by fighting his way through adverse circumstances to the educational advantages which were not then so easily attained as they are now. A native of the celebrated county of Pictou, Nova Scotia, he went from his quiet country home to study for the ministry at Glasgow University, after having won honourable distinction in his preliminary course at the Seminary, not only in the prescribed studies, but in the athletic sport of foot-ball, in which he still takes a lively interest. While in Glasgow, he came under the personal influence of the large-hearted Norman Macleod, and also became a missionary worker among the inhabitants of the closes and wynds of the old city—learning lessons which have been most valuable to his after-life. Though Scotland had naturally many attractions for him, his heart and duty called him back to Canada—his first charge being the quiet country parish of Georgetown, Prince Edward Island, from which he was soon called to the pastorate of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax—one of the oldest congregations in the Dominion. Here his gifts as a pulpit orator were soon recognized—his young men, especially, were attracted by the force, directness and reality of his preaching—while his charge grew and prospered, so that a new church was built during his term of office, and his relations with his flock were so happy that it was a real pain when a call that he could not ignore induced him to enter on a new and still more important field of labour.

It was in 1877 that he accepted, at the unanimous request of the Trustees, the principalship of Queen's University. How that University has prospered under his care is familiar to all who know her history. At the time of Principal Grant's accession, the number of students was under two hundred all told, with but eight or ten professors in the Arts and Theological faculties. Now, there are between four and five hundred students in all the faculties, with about twenty professors in the Arts and Theological departments, in addition to be about the same number of professors and lecturers in those of medicine and law.

It need hardly be said that he is in the best sense of the word, a progressive man, in touch with the needs and problems of the day. In the pulpit he prefers conversational directness, to the rhetorical and ornate style which generally goes over the heads of the audience. He is not afraid of plain speaking—preferring forcible appeals to heart and conscience to theological disquisitions—and valuing only the vital religion which is the root of right feeling and right action, he has no respect for "profession" without fruit. Whether we agree or disagree with him as to any given points, we can scarcely fail to sympathize with his general aims and principles, and to accord to him the merit of decided convictions and the courage to express them. Especially, must every true lover of his country sympathize with his earnest appeals for the purification of our political life, and the promotion of a high and healthy tone of public opinion inspired by the righteousness which alone exalteth a nation.

FIDELIS.

REV. JOHN LAING, D.D.

THE Rev. John Laing was born near the village of Milton, in Easter Ross, on the 24th of March, 1828. His father was at that time factor for Lady Hay McKenzie, of Cromarty House. His mother was Isabella, second daughter of John Thomson, Esq., of Prior Letham and Waterliss, near St. Andrew's, Scotland; who was during the French war a contractor for the navy and accumulated a large fortune. The Thompsons are an old family of "the Kingdom of Fife." The early education of Dr. Laing was received in Edinburgh at the High School, chiefly under the distinguished teachers Drs. Riddle and Carson. He held the second highest place in the rector's class in 1842. The following year the family emigrated to Canada and settled near Dunville in the Eastern Townships. In 1848 Dr. Laing came to Toronto and attended Knox College; he also took certain classes in King's College and afterwards at University College. He had taught before coming to Toronto in the common school with success, and from 1849 to 1854 he continued to teach in Knox Academy, and as tutor in Knox College, also teaching the Hebrew classes. He obtained the degree of B.A. from Victoria College, Cobourg, in 1871, and the Master's degree in course. In 1883 Rutgers College, New Jersey, conferred on him *honoris causa* the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In educational matters, as superintendent and as examiner on County Boards, and in Victoria and Knox Colleges he rendered long continued and valuable service until the year 1890. In the public discussion of educational questions as far back as 1861, when the Colleges' endowment question and the Separate School questions were before the country, he contributed many valuable papers, and since he has publicly shown a deep interest in such matters. The question of religious instruction in the Public Schools in Ontario also found in him its earliest and strongest advocate.

He was ordained to the ministry at Scarboro in 1854. There he laboured with great success for five years and a half. Finding the work there too great he accepted a call to Cobourg in 1859, where he remained for twelve years. He spent one year in Ottawa where he opened the Ladies' College, now known as Coligny College. He was called to Dundas in 1873, where he still labours, honoured and beloved by his people and enjoying the confidence and respect of the general public.

Dr. Laing has strong convictions and when he feels called upon does not hesitate to express them publicly. He has taken a fair share in the controversies in Theology, Church Polity, and in Religious-political discussions during the last forty years. Some papers from his pen have also found their way into theological reviews and magazines. In 1877 a pamphlet on the "Second Coming of the Lord" was published by him. Dr. Laing was Moderator of the General Assembly in 1890. In the local Synod he was also Moderator, and is recognized

there as a most useful member. In his own Presbytery he has been clerk for eighteen years. His knowledge of ecclesiastical law and usage is such that he was appointed to serve as one of the committee which compiled the Book of Forms; and he acted as editor of the last edition of that book. His connection with the Home Mission work began with the framing of the present scheme in 1862. He was convener until 1871, when the work passed into the hands of Dr. Cochrane, and has since been conducted on the original lines. Dr. Laing has, however, been kept by the Assembly connected with that work ever since.

REV. THOMAS WARDROPE, D.D.

DR. THOMAS WARDROPE was born in Ladykirk, Berwickshire, Scotland, in May, 1819, and began his studies for the ministry in Edinburgh under Pillans and Dunbar. His father, also a Rev. Thomas Wardrope, was a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, and for years taught the parish school of Ladykirk. From him he learned those habits of correct speech which never fail him even in the most critical situations. In 1834 the family came to Canada and settled in the township of Flamboro', then a wilderness. In 1842 he entered Queen's College, Kingston, and after the Disruption of 1844, taught for some time the Grammar School of Bytown, now Ottawa. In 1846 he was ordained and inducted pastor of Knox Church, Bytown, in which charge he remained for fourteen years. During these years his actual parish was the Ottawa valley. Like many of the founders of the Free Church, the youthful pastor of Knox church, Bytown, greatly enjoyed a good preaching tour. In 1869, Dr. Wardrope was translated to Chalmers' church, Guelph, his present charge. His pastorates have been few but his honours have been many. In 1858 he was appointed Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada; from 1873 to 1877 he was Convener of the Assembly's Committee on the State of Religion; from 1883 until last year he was Convener of the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee, and during his term of office was privileged to see the work under his charge greatly extended and the missionary spirit of the Church quickened. A short time after the Union of 1875 the degree of Doctor in Divinity was conferred upon him by the authorities of Queen's University, an honour as deservedly won as it is worthily worn. His election to the Moderator's chair was made unanimous, and it is safe to say that few elections to the highest place in the gift of the Supreme Court were ever more heartily endorsed by the people of Canada.

REV. WM. CAVEN, D.D.

WM. CAVEN was born in Wigtonshire, Scotland, on the 26th December, 1830. His father, a man of more than average intelligence, and of much amiability and gentleness of disposition, was a school teacher. In uprightness of character, conscientiousness and firm adherence to principle, Dr. Caven's father was one who commanded the respect of all who knew him. If the Principal of Knox College owes much to his father, he is no less indebted to his mother, whose excellence of character was strongly marked. The Caven family left their Scottish home in 1847, exchanging the neighbourhood of the Solway Firth for the banks of the Avon, in Perth County, Ontario. Here in comparative seclusion, the studious youth passed an important period of his life. Strange to say he did not find his way to academic distinction, for he was not an alumnus of any university. In his case the lack was equally compensated for by the two advantages he enjoyed. He belonged to the branch of the Church in Canada known down to 1861 as the United Presbyterian, which in that year merged with the Free Church into the Canada Presbyterian, and subsequently united with the Church of Scotland in 1875, embracing within its fold most of the Presbyterianism of British North America. Principal Caven completed his educational course in 1852, and in October of that year was ordained to the ministry at St. Mary's where he laboured with great acceptance for fourteen years. In 1866 he was unanimously chosen to fill the chair of Exegetical Theology in Knox College, of which institution, on the retirement of Dr. Willis, he was appointed Principal in 1873. Two years later, Queen's University bestowed on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. In the same year he was chosen Moderator of the General Assembly which met in Montreal and at which the reunion of Canadian Presbyterianism was consummated. He was President of the Ontario Teachers' Association in 1887, and was appointed by the Ontario Government a Member of the Senate of Toronto University. Dr. Caven took an active interest in the formation of the Presbyterian Alliance, generally known as the Pan-Presbyterian Council, and has been one of the prominent members of all the Councils yet held; in that at Edinburgh in 1877, Philadelphia in 1880, Belfast in 1884, and at London in 1888, and in Toronto in 1892.

REV. THOS. SEDGWICK, D.D.

Was born at Aberdeen, Scotland, May 5th, 1838, being the eldest son of the late Dr. Sedgwick, of Musquodoboit, N. S. and brother of Mr. Justice Sedgwick of the Supreme Court of Canada. He was educated at the Grammar School and University and King's College, Aberdeen, and at the Divinity Hall of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. He was ordained Sept. 19th, 1860, as minister at Tatamagouche, N.S., where he has ever since remained. He is married to Christina, daughter of Roderick Macgregor, of New Glasgow, N.S., and granddaughter of Dr. James Macgregor, the apostle of Presbyterianism in Eastern Nova Scotia. He was Presbytery clerk for nearly thirty years and is now clerk of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, and was Moderator of the Synod in 1885. He received in 1893 the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Presbyterian College, Halifax, being the second on whom the College conferred this degree since it obtained the power some ten years ago. At the meeting of the General Assembly at Brantford last summer, Dr. Sedgwick was elected Moderator of the Church, which position he now occupies and adorns.