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Perhaps no other name has been so constantly before the people of Ontario in connection with educational affairs, during the past seven years, as that of Dr. McLellan. The Legislature in 1871 made some important additions and changes in the School Law of Ontario. Dr. Ryerson then secured what he regarded as the crowning glory of the system whose foundations he had laid so deeply and firmly a quarter of a century before. One of the important features of this Act was the establishment of a uniform examination for teachers throughout the Province, instead of the county examinations held before that time. A committee of three

was appointed to prepare and conduct these examinations. Dr. McLellan was one of the original three. He became a provincial school officer therefore in 1871, and since that time has been intimately connected with the working out of the reforms made in the school system of the country. The period from 1871 to 1878 will undoubtedly be most strongly marked in the educational history of Ontario by the growth and systematizing of examinations. The Entrance and Intermediate examinations in High Schools, and the uniform examinations for First, Second, and Third Class teachers, have been established, and have become prominent parts in the educational system of the province. Dr. McLellan not only suggested the advisability of holding some of these examinations, but did a great deal to arrange the details so necessary to the efficient working of the whole. His High School reports to the Department in 1871 and 1872 called attention to several of the weak points in the Law and Regulations, as they stood at that time, and suggested the remedies that have since been adopted.

Dr. McLellan was born in Lower Stewiacke, Nova Scotia, in 1832. His parents removed to Ontario in 1837. His boyhood was spent at Thornhill. It was in that village that he received his elementary training. He was very fortunate in having for his teachers there two graduates of Victoria College. By them he was first initiated into the mysteries of algebra, euclid, and natural philosophy—subjects which he even then studied with great delight and success. In 1848 he received a first-class certificate from the County Board, and in 1849 entered the Normal School in Toronto. Here he succeeded in obtaining a high stand-

ing and a special recommendation from the school authorities. After leaving the Normal School he taught a public school for a short time, but not being fully satisfied with the salary he received (fifteen dollars per month) he left the profession for about five years. He resumed the duties of a teacher in 1856, and has not since forsaken the field of labor for which he is so eminently fitted. In 1857 he re-entered the Normal School, and, though he attended only a part of a session, succeeded in obtaining a first-class certificate, grade A. He also received a special recommendation from the Normal School masters, T. J. Robertson, M.A., and Dr. Ormiston. He matriculated in the University of Toronto, in the following year, taking first-class Honors and a General Proficiency Scholarship. He was appointed Principal of St. Mary's Central

School in 1858, but kept up his University work, passing yearly examinations while teaching, and taking first-class honors in two departments. He attended lectures for one year, and on graduating received two medals, one in Mathematics, the other in Logic, Ethics, Metaphysics and Civil Polity. Such a distinguished position had only been previously taken by two graduates. He ranked especially well during his course in Mathematics. Professor Cherriman wrote his opinion of his mathematical ability and attainments as follows:—
"I consider him to possess great Mathematical power, and to have cultivated it with very commendable industry and perseverance. I noted him also as being not only a successful student, but an original and independent thinker, with no small facility of expression. I may further state that, at the time it was in contemplation to appoint a Mathematical Tutor in University



College, I had fixed on Mr. McLellan to occupy this position." He wrote for his M.A. in 1873, and in the language of Hon. Chief Justice Moss, then Registrar of the University, his "Thesis was adjudged worthy of a prize,—an honor made all the more distinguished by the fact, that at the time only two other persons had ever received it since the establishment of the University." He obtained the degree of LL.D. also in 1878. While in St. Mary's he succeeded in founding its High School, and establishing for it a high reputation. In 1864 he was appointed Principal of the Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Seminary. He remained in this position for five years, during which time his students took high honors in Dalhousie, McGill, the Wesleyan, and Toronto Universities.

In 1869 he was offered the Mathematical Professorship, and the