

was able to continue his studies and to extend his inquiries into other branches of physical science, as well as into those departments of philosophy and theology with which the physical sciences are more closely connected. During his residence at Monimail, he made himself known by extensive contributions to various periodicals and cyclopedias, on those subjects to which he had specially devoted his time; and by this means he enjoyed an intimate acquaintance with many of the most distinguished literary scientific men in Great Britain. The science to which he remained most fondly attached was that of astronomy; and from his thorough familiarity with the practical work of an Observatory, from the enthusiasm with which he studied every improvement in astronomical instruments, and hailed every fresh discovery to which it led, as well as from his general scientific attainments, it was thought probable that, had he not left Scotland, he would have been appointed to the chair of his teacher, the late Professor Nichol, in the University of Glasgow. De Quincey, in a noble article on Lord Rosse's telescope, speaks of his friend Professor Nichol as having contributed more than any other living man to keep general English readers, who have not time for the scientific investigations of astronomers, acquainted with the latest and profoundest results to which these investigations are leading; and during the two years which have passed since the Professor's death, it would be difficult to point to a man for whom the same distinction could have been so justly claimed as the late Principal of our University.

In 1860 he was invited by the Trustees of the Queen's University to become its Principal; and after spending session 1860-61 in the duties of the office, he decided to accept their invitation. His brief and sad career among us is so unfinished that even its imperfect results, and certainly, at least the larger and nobler aims by which it was guided, could be adequately described only at greater length than is possible in a hurried newspaper notice. Those who have been interested in his movements must have recognized the hopes which he entertained for the progress of science by the efficient working of our Observatory, and for the advancement of higher education by a more orderly government of our University, as well as by a reform in the general relations of all the Universities of Upper Canada.—*Kingston News, May 11th.*

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