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[Stahers, Robert]

Report of Proceedings

with a copy of the addresses delivered at the unveiling
of the

Memorial Oil-Painting

of the late

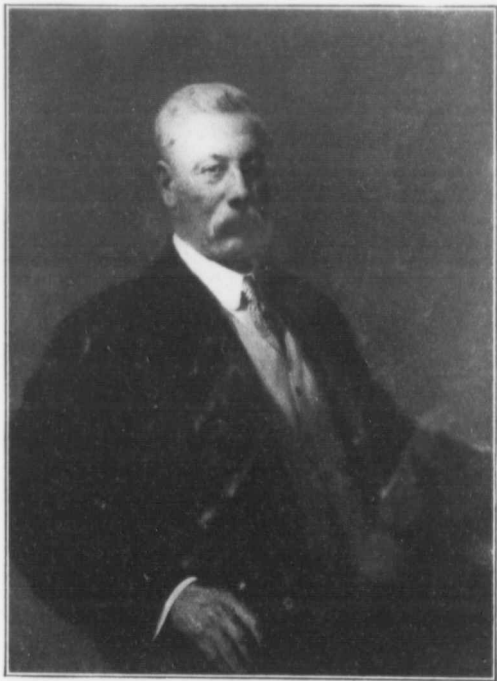
G. W. Greene

Chairman of the Ottawa Collegiate Board

March 19, 3 p.m.

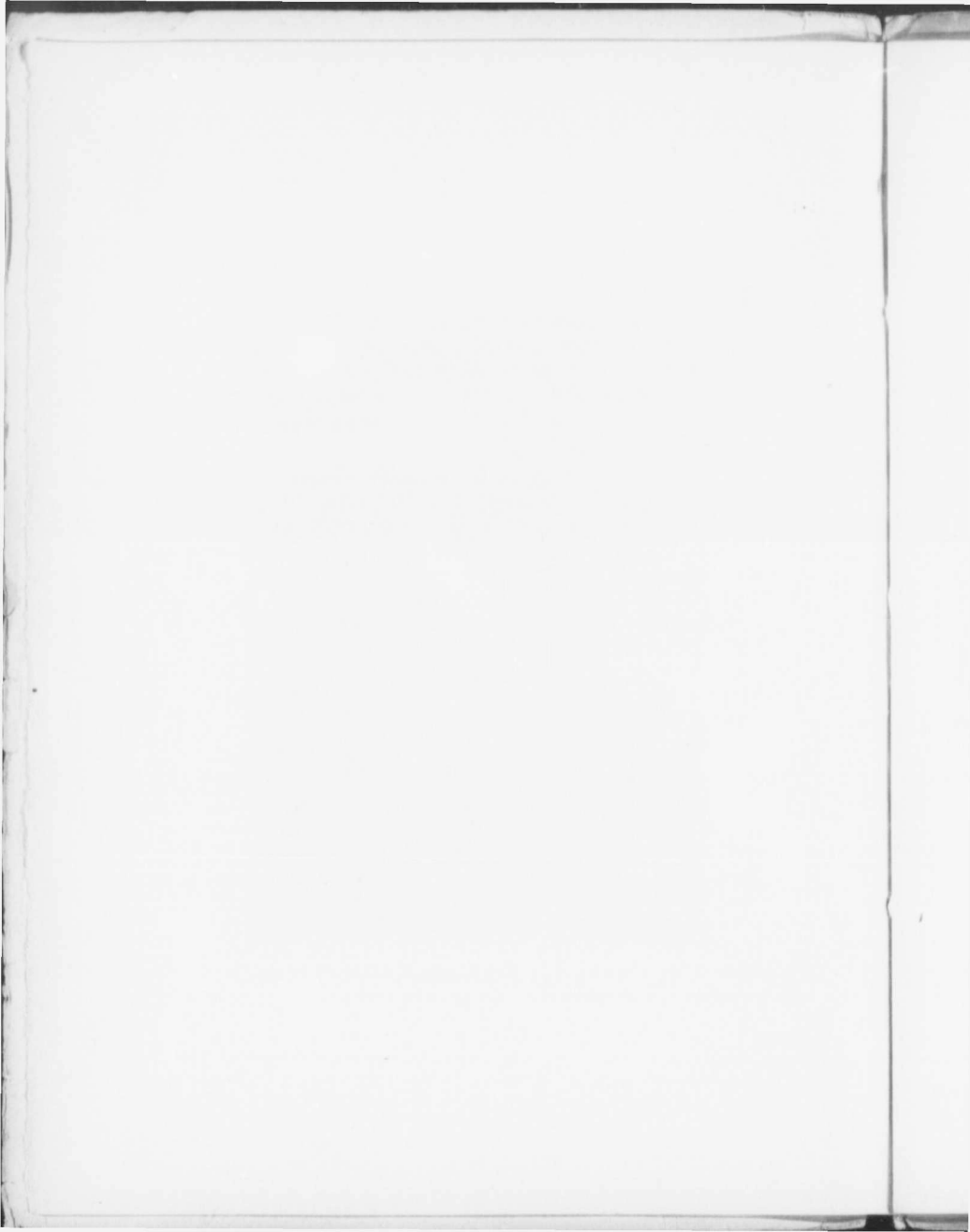
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COPY OF MEMORIAL PORTRAIT

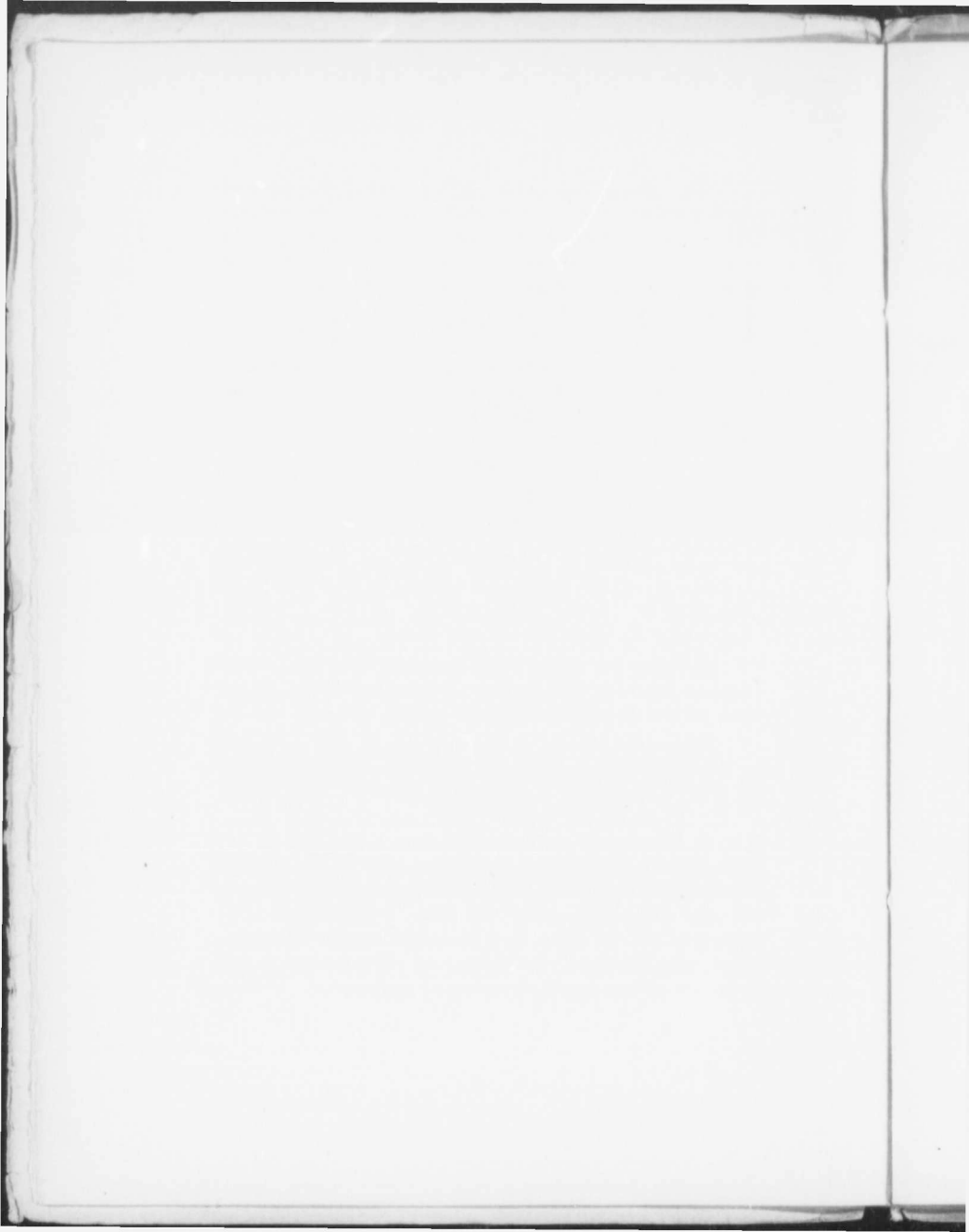
The compilation of this account of the unveiling and presentation to the Collegiate Institute Board of the Memorial Portrait of the late Mr. Greene is due to the kindness of Mr. Robert Stothers, B.A. Mr. Stothers was Honorary Secretary of the committee appointed by the Donors of the portrait, of whom he was one, to attend to the details in connection with having it painted and presented.



IT was deemed fitting and proper that the late Mr. G. B. Greene, Chairman of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Board, should in some manner be honoured and kept in remembrance by some permanent and tangible tribute to his memory and his connection with the Institute and Secondary Education in the city of Ottawa.

To this end some of the late Mr. Greene's personal friends contributed to a Memorial Fund to provide a portrait in oil and to present it to The Ottawa Collegiate Board of Trustees to be placed in the Assembly Hall as their permanent tribute to their friend and colleague. The portrait was duly presented to the Chairman of the Board on March 19th, 1913, at 3.00 p.m. in the Convocation Hall, in the presence of some eight hundred students, The Trustee Board, the Members of the Staff, representatives of the family and many public citizens.

The portrait was veiled and placed on an easel on the platform for the occasion. His Honour Judge MacTavish presided and was supported by Principal A. H. McDougall, LL.D.; Ex-principal Dr. Macmillan; Trustee Col. W. P. Anderson; Trustee Robt. Stewart; Cecil Bethune, Sec.-Treas; Hiram Robinson, Lumberman, an Ex-president of the Upper Ottawa Improvement Co.; Rev. J. M. Snowdon, Rector of St. Georges; ex-Controller Stuart McClenaghan; Ex-Trustee J. I. MacCraken; Walter Bronson; members of the family and many others.

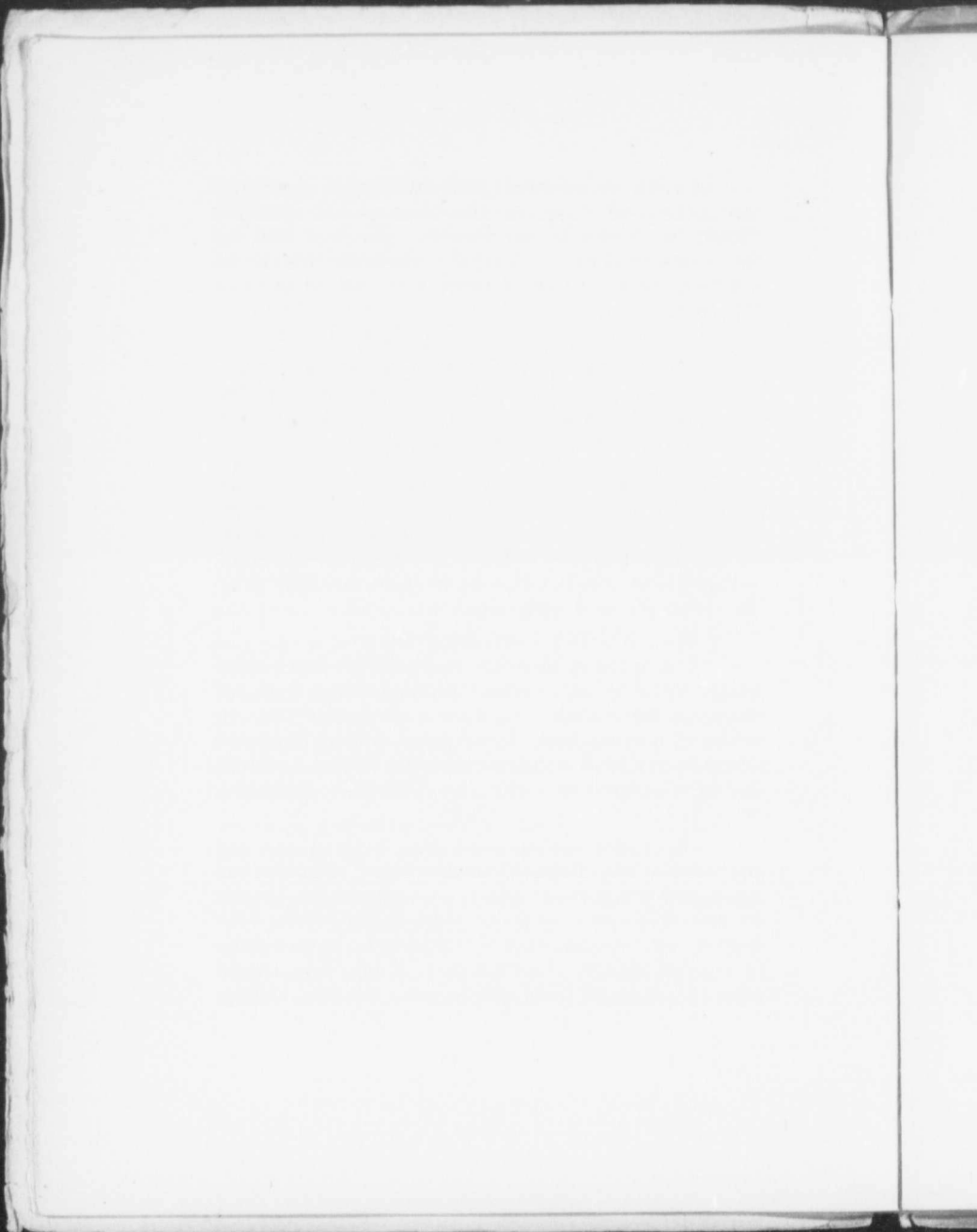


Dr. Macmillan arose and unveiled the portrait and presented it to the chairman of the Institute Board, on behalf of the Donors. As he raised his hand to unveil the portrait the whole audience stood silently, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased chairman, and on resuming their seats Dr. Macmillan delivered the following address:—

“We are met this afternoon for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of one of the best friends the Ottawa Collegiate Institute ever had. I feel greatly honoured in having been selected to bear a part in the ceremony of this afternoon. This selection was made no doubt because of my intimate knowledge of, and acquaintance with, the late Mr. Greene, extending over a period of many years while he was a student in my classes, a citizen, an alderman, a member of the Board, also when he worthily filled the position and discharged the duties devolving upon him as Chairman of the Board.

“When the news of the sad, sudden and almost tragic death of Mr. Greene reached Ottawa, in addition to the natural expression of sorrow and our sense of serious loss, the friends of the Institute recognized that it was pre-eminently fitting to record in some permanent way Mr. Greene’s connection with the Collegiate Institute.

“After due deliberation the form which the permanent record should assume was finally decided upon and the portrait which I now have the honour to unveil is the result of that deliberation. Mr. Greene had all the natural qualities characteristic of a good citizen: kindness of disposition, readiness to listen to both sides of a question, willing-



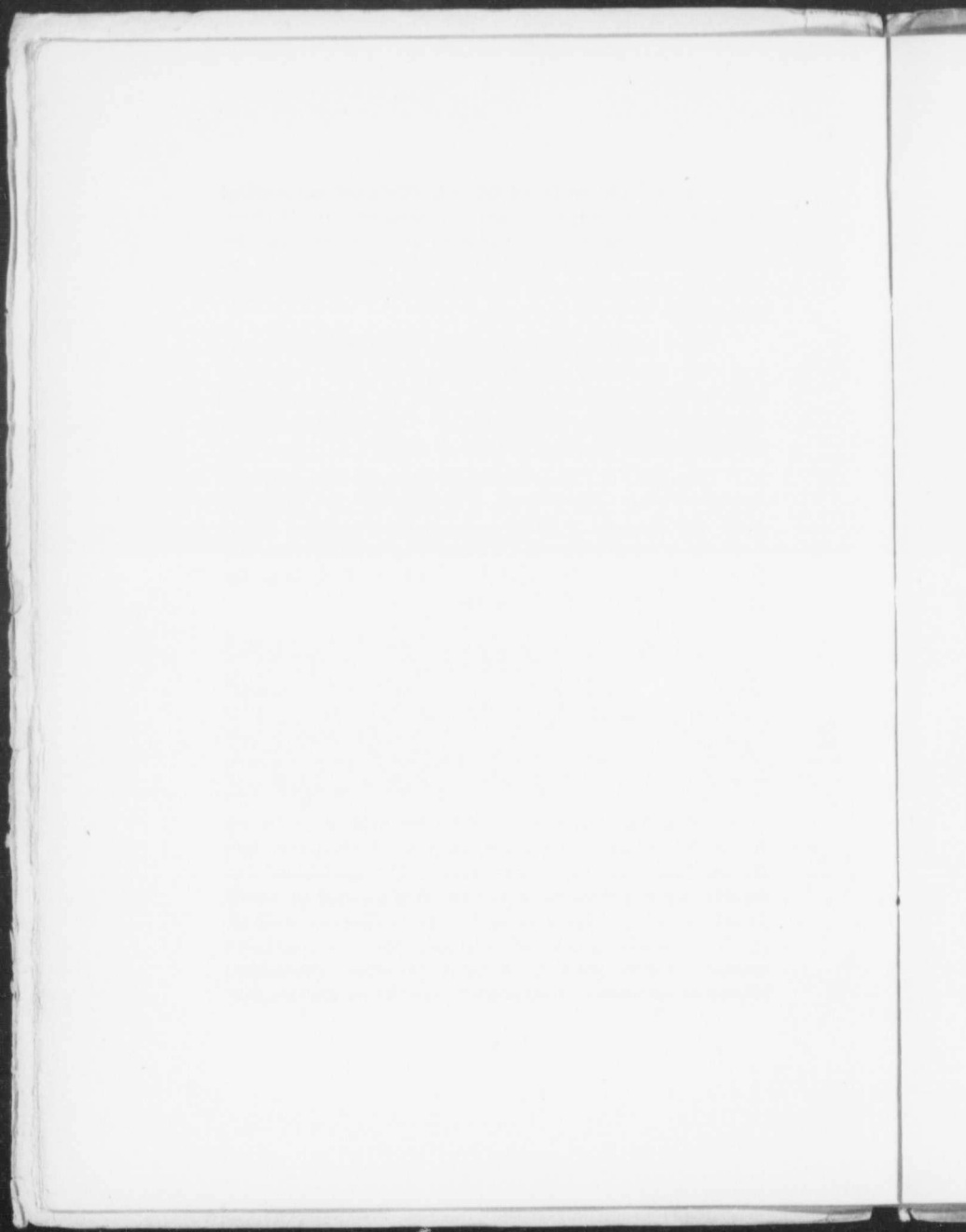
ness to meet the views of others, while not sacrificing one jot of principle,—and a constant inclination and desire to give his services in support of, and for the advancement of, every enterprise which he believed tended to the welfare and lasting good of the city.

“His good judgment, his sound business qualities, his clearness of perception and his executive ability were soon recognized and he was therefore closely identified with some of the large business undertakings of the Ottawa Valley.

“Trusted by the business men of Ottawa, respected by all who had the privilege of his acquaintance, he possessed in a very marked degree those qualities of head and heart which well fitted him for any position which could have been given him by the votes of his fellow citizens.

“But while large business transactions engaged his attention and received energetic treatment at his hands and while civic, provincial and national problems were studied by him at first-hand, yet to no kind of enterprise did he give more willing and effective aid than to the present and future growth and development of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute.

“May this portrait, whenever looked upon by the present and future generation of students and members of the Teaching Staff of the Collegiate Institute, be a constant reminder of the sterling worth of a true friend; may it be an inspiration to faithful and more faithful service, and may it be an incentive to the highest type of loyalty to this Institution whose success and prosperity were ever so dear to him.

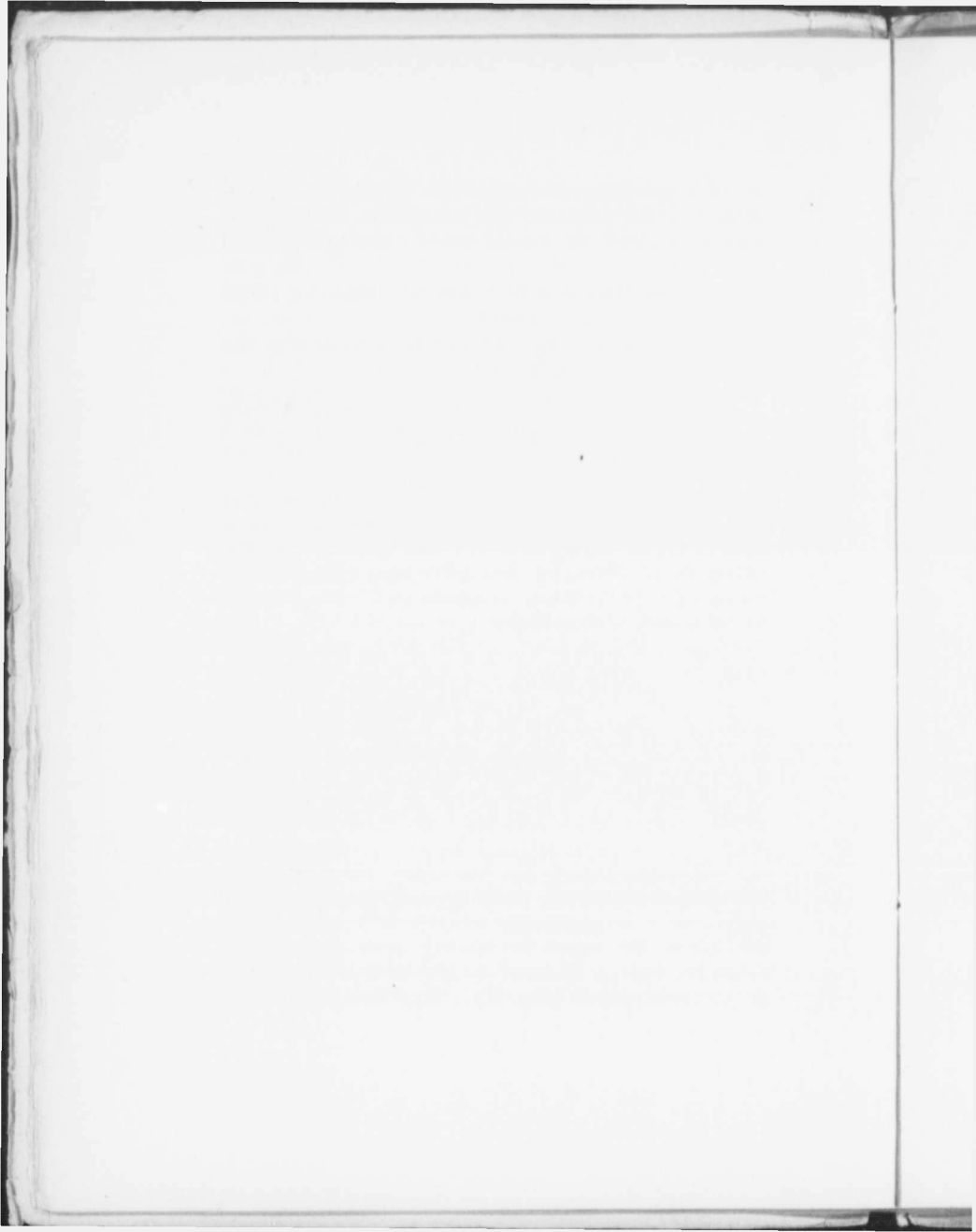


“Your Honour Judge MacTavish, on behalf of and in the name of the subscribers to the fund for this work of art, I hand over to you as Chairman of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Board, this portrait of one who well and worthily filled the office now so well filled by yourself.”

His Honour Judge MacTavish in accepting the portrait spoke as follows:—

“On behalf of the Trustees of the Collegiate Institute I accept this gift in the spirit that prompted the donors to present it to this Board, of which the late Mr. Greene was for so many years a faithful member and over whose deliberations he presided with dignity and honour. As is fitting, we leave it here to adorn the walls of this hall, dedicated to the education of the young men and young women of our beautiful City, in whose progress and advancement he took such an intelligent interest.

“Dr. Macmillan has given us an appreciation of Mr. Greene’s personality and character, leaving me little to add. That was an appreciation of a firm friend and affectionate teacher, marked by candour and sincerity—just such an appreciation of a worthy pupil that one would expect to hear from a no less worthy teacher. In that period of his life when his fellow trustees knew him best, the late Mr. Greene retained, in an extraordinary degree, the hopefulness, the enthusiasm and the buoyancy of youth, but added thereto was the wider sympathy and matured judgment of a vigorous manhood. It is rare, indeed, to find in the same individual, such strength of character and gentleness of disposition, combined in the most perfect harmony. He was a thoroughly

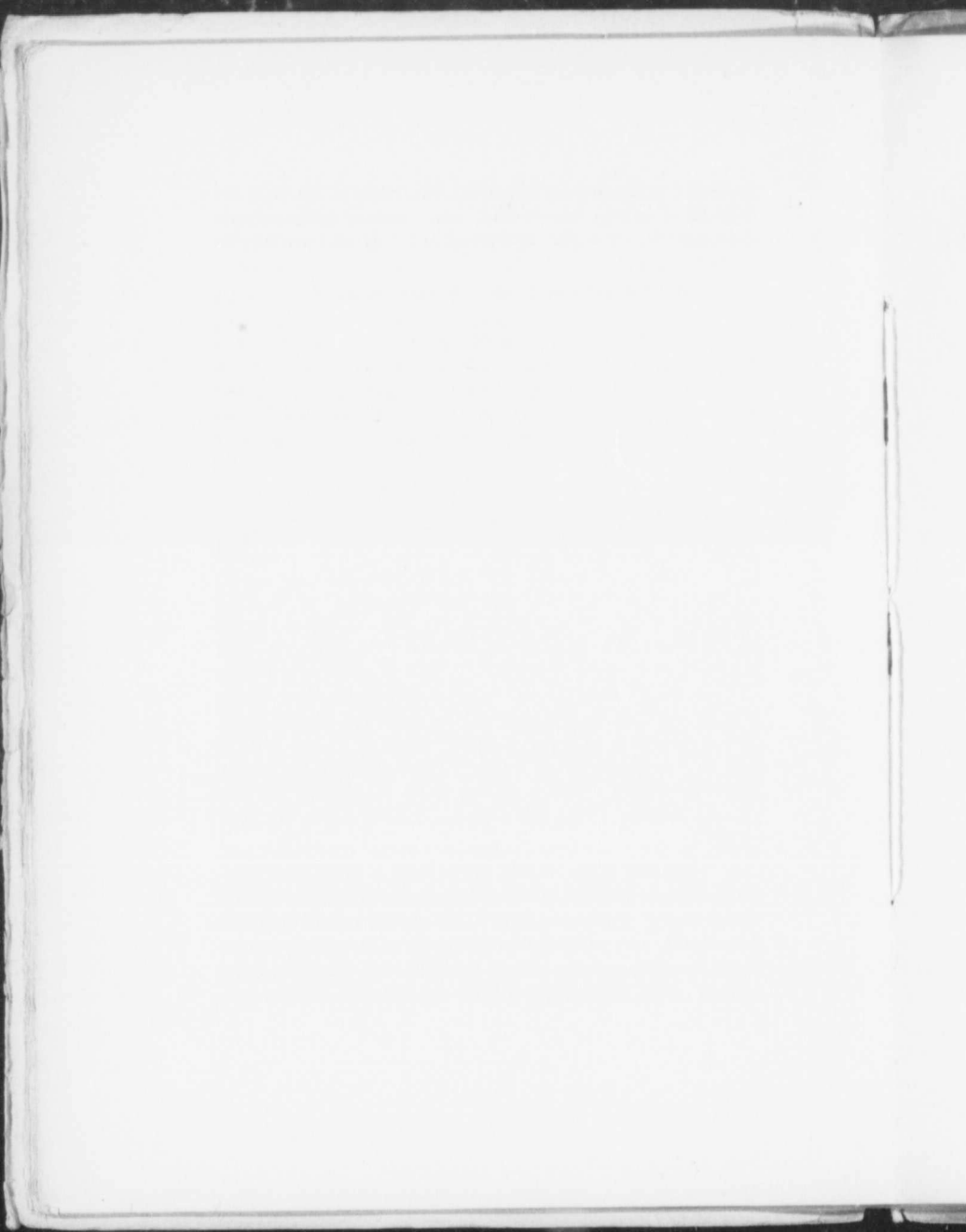


genuine man who was what he seemed to be, and who said what he meant, but withal sympathetic and gentle, with the gentleness of a great and kindly nature.

“Would this not be a fitting occasion to urge on the young men present to cultivate these two traits of character, so well exemplified in the late Mr. Greene, strength and gentleness—indeed to deserve, by their conduct and bearing, the grand old name of gentleman—a manhood of strength and energy, tempered with gentleness, kindness and courtesy to all?

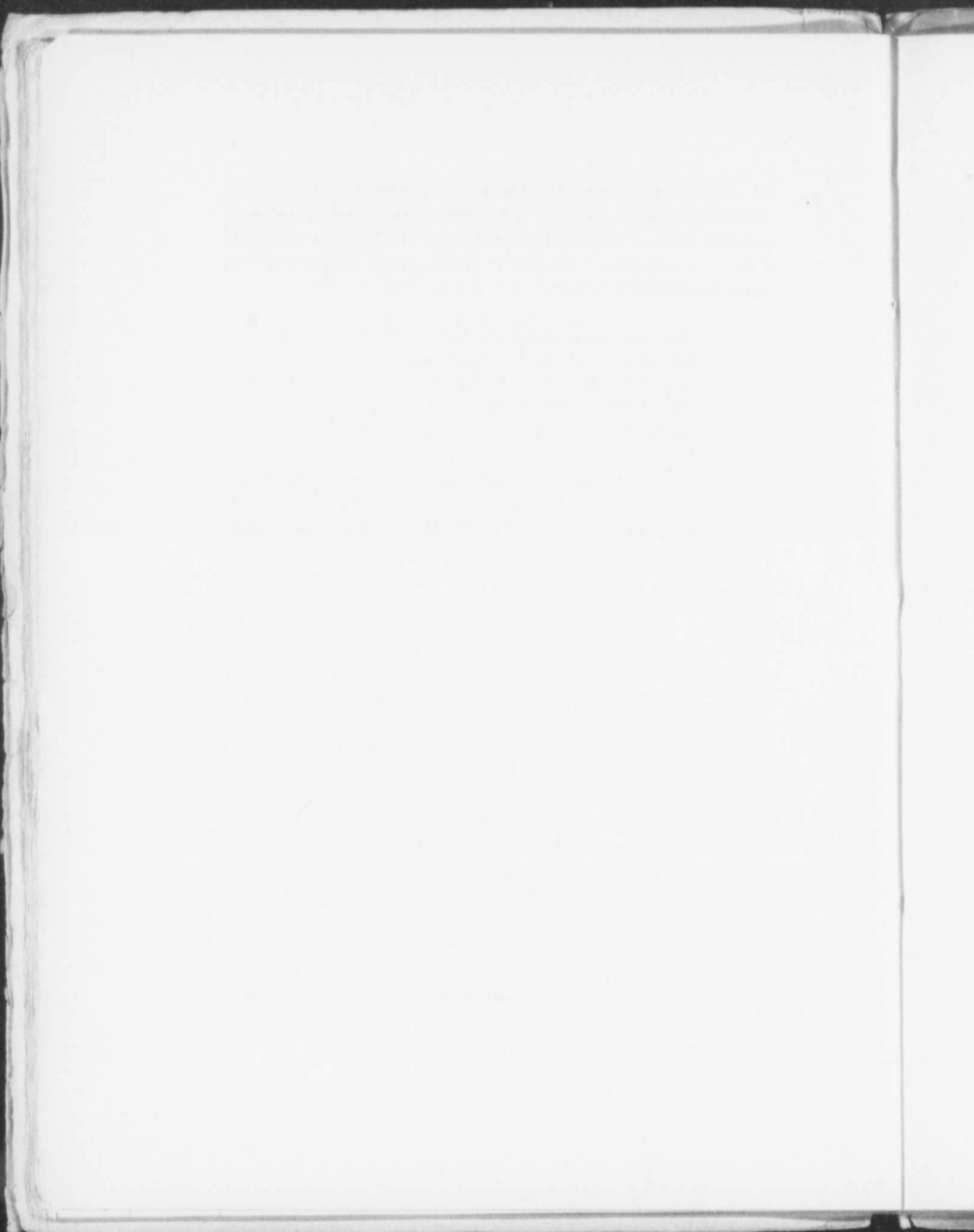
“It is difficult to estimate the loss sustained by the Board in being deprived of the benefit of his good judgment and patient attention to all questions that came before him for consideration and decision. Every question, every proposition, before its final determination, was brought to the tribunal of his intelligent and cultivated conscience, and neither timidity nor mere expediency was at all entertained; but he asked himself the simple question, is it right, and according to the answer his conduct was guided. His conviction of duty was so wrought in his nature that it became part of himself, and neither difficulty nor opposition could cause him to falter in the course which, after intelligent deliberation, he had chosen.

“Let me urge on the boys and young men present the necessity of decision, and decision in the right way. In every boy's life and in every man's life there are occasions when important decisions must be made. Be yours to follow in the footsteps of our late chairman. Do not permit yourselves



to linger on the questions, Is it pleasant? Will it be popular? Is it politic? But ask yourselves the simple question, is it right or wrong, and let the answer of your conscience be the final deliverance. That answer may largely determine your usefulness in life.

“I do not feel equal to the task of saying all I would like to say in appreciation of Mr. Greene, as a public-spirited citizen, a trusted representative, and a personal friend. If there is a time in one's life, when reason and intellect are relegated to a second place, and what is known as the human heart takes control, it is on an occasion such as this, when we are met under circumstances that so vividly recall to one's mind the loss of a valued friend and companion, taken from us in the prime of his manhood and before the zenith of his usefulness had been reached; and lest in the waywardness of strong emotion, I might say something that calmer reflection would not approve, I will close by expressing the hope that this portrait may remind you—may remind us all, of the honourable and useful life of him who is so truly and faithfully portrayed, that your life, no matter how short the span, may be so lived, (as his was), that those who knew you best, will miss you most, that those whose trouble and distress you have helped to relieve, whose burdens you have lightened, whose hearts you have helped to make glad, may, in the long after time, recall and cherish your words of sympathy and your acts of kindness, in grateful and affectionate remembrance. We are all travelling the same path, towards the same goal. The value of our lives may be appraised according to whether we have helped or hindered our fellow travellers by the way.



“Let Mr. Greene’s life be an inspiration to us all to be helpers and not hinderers and, when the end comes, to leave as a rich heritage, to those who come after, a record of earnest and noble deeds and of duty faithfully done.

All heirs to some six feet of sod
Are equal in the earth at last ;
All children of the same dear God
Prove title to your heirship vast
By records of a well filled past.
A heritage, it seems to me,
Well worth a life to hold in fee.

Dr. McDougall, Principal of the Collegiate Institute, expressed his complete concurrence in the eulogies pronounced by Dr. Macmillan and Judge MacTavish on the character of the late Mr. Greene, on his loyalty to the school and on the great services he had given to it as Trustee and Chairman of the Board. It was a matter of great satisfaction that families could be found who had been connected with an institution of this kind throughout so many years. Not only had Mr. Greene received his education there and been an active friend of the school for so long a time, but his brothers and his sons had also received the greater part of their education in it.

It was also a matter of interest and congratulation that the artist, Mr. Ernest Fosbery, whose skill and trained taste had enabled him to produce so true a likeness, was himself an ex-pupil of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute. That fact increased greatly the value that the portrait had for them.

There was room on the walls of the Assembly Hall, of the class rooms and of the corridors for many



more works of art. There were two kinds of pictures there now. In one they had portraits and groups of ex-pupils, and in the other reproductions of the great pictures of ancient and modern masters. While the portraits and groups were generally provided by subscription among the friends of the ex-pupils and of the school, the reproductions of famous pictures were purchased by the Board.

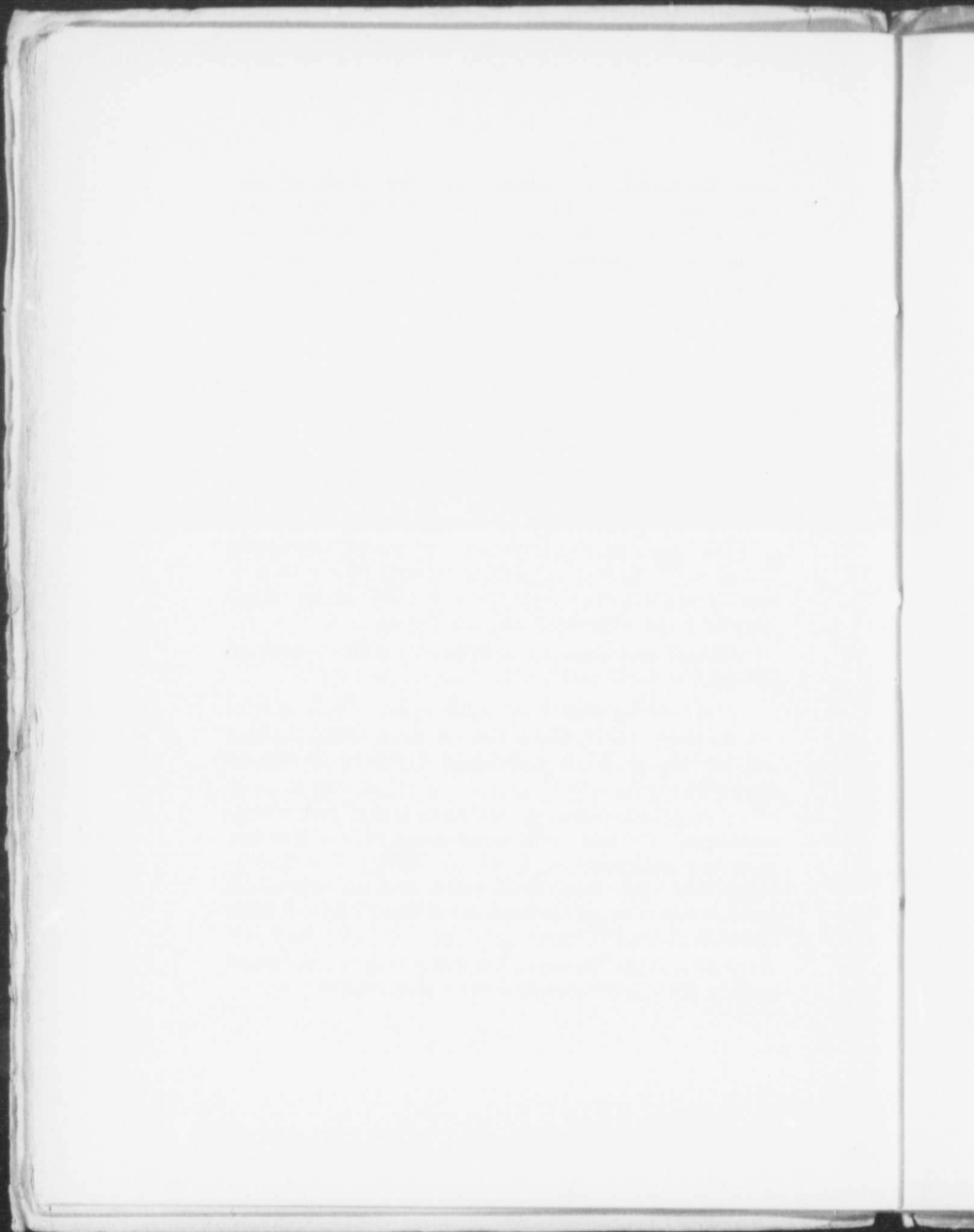
It was to be hoped that from time to time many more of both kinds would be added. It was an important part of the proper equipment of the school that the pupils should have in a place where they spend no small part of their lives works of art constantly before them.

Dr. McDougall concluded by again expressing the pleasure that all friends of the school felt in possessing a portrait of so true and loyal an ex-pupil, Trustee and Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Hiram Robinson followed in a short address. He said:—

“Mr. Chairman, I am glad to have this chance to say a very few words about my dear friend the late Mr. Greene, as I was so long associated with him in business.

“Mr. Greene was a very true friend and a very just man. I knew him most intimately. For the past thirty-five years of his life even his own brothers could not have been more intimate with him than I was. I was President of the Upper Ottawa Improvement Company and Mr. Greene was the Manager; thus associated I can speak of his great ability, tact, foresight and executive ability.



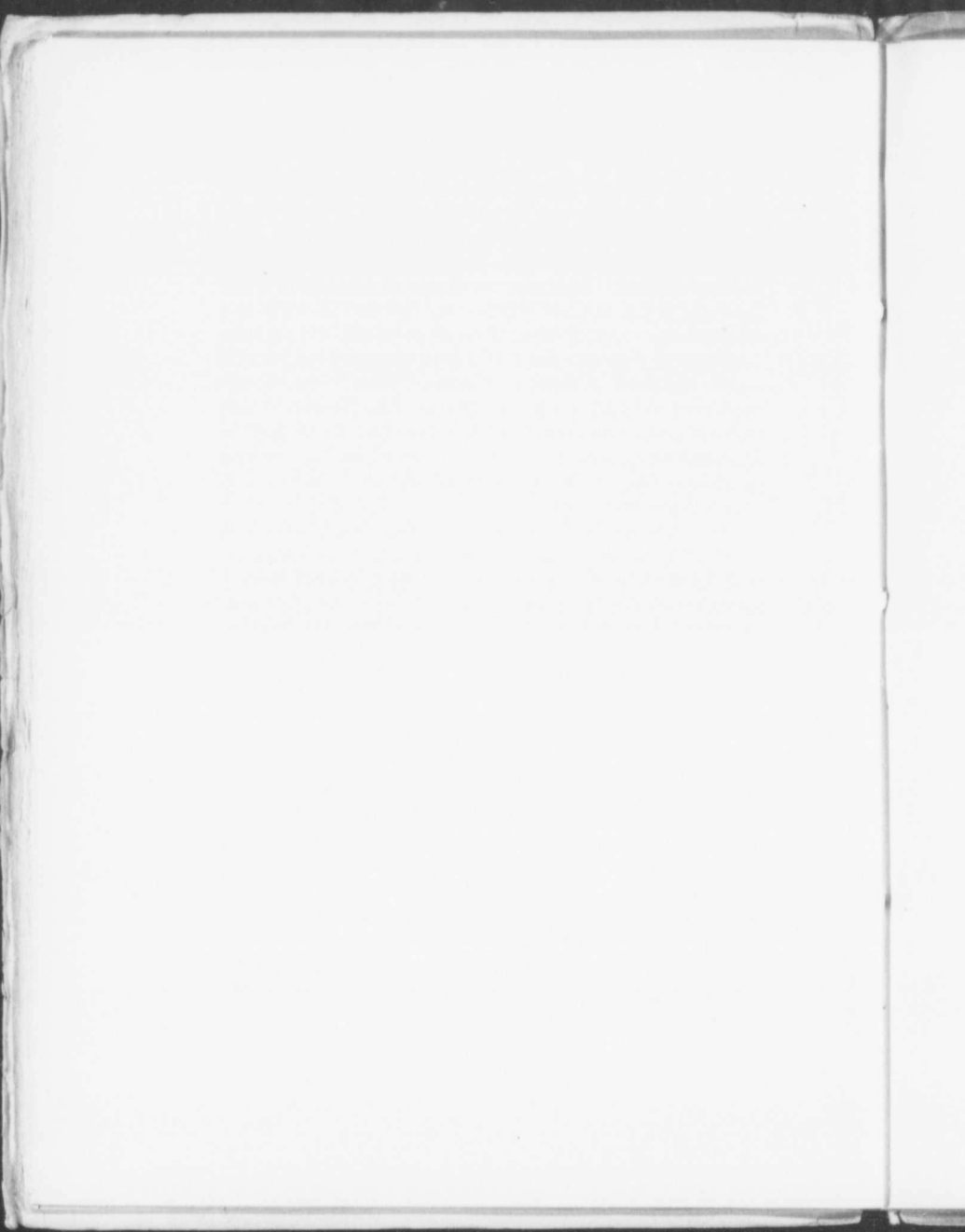
“Mr. Greene’s position was a very difficult one to fill and a highly important one in this large Company over which he had complete oversight. The Company had jurisdiction from Pine Tree Island at the foot of the Chaudière away to the head of Lake Temiskaming, and as every one connected with the lumber industry knew, it was a great tax on the manager to please all the operators, owing to the many millions of dollars worth of logs to be distributed at various points to the several owners, each of whom was anxious to receive his own in the quickest possible manner. I wish to say that Mr. Greene performed his task in absolute fairness and to the satisfaction of all.

“I felt very keenly the sudden death and loss of Mr. Greene as I had grown to like him so much and he was such a staunch and able friend that I always relied upon; and again, I wish to say how pleased I am that this portrait has been carried to completion and that I am present on this occasion to offer my own personal tribute to his worth.”

Mr. Snowdon said:—

“As one who enjoyed the privilege of having the late Mr. Greene as a parishioner for some twelve or fifteen years I am very grateful for this opportunity of saying a few words of appreciation of his worth on this occasion of the presentation of his portrait to this Institution with which he was so closely identified. He was one of the first Ottawa men I met in 1886 when as a young clergyman I went to the parish of Billings Bridge.

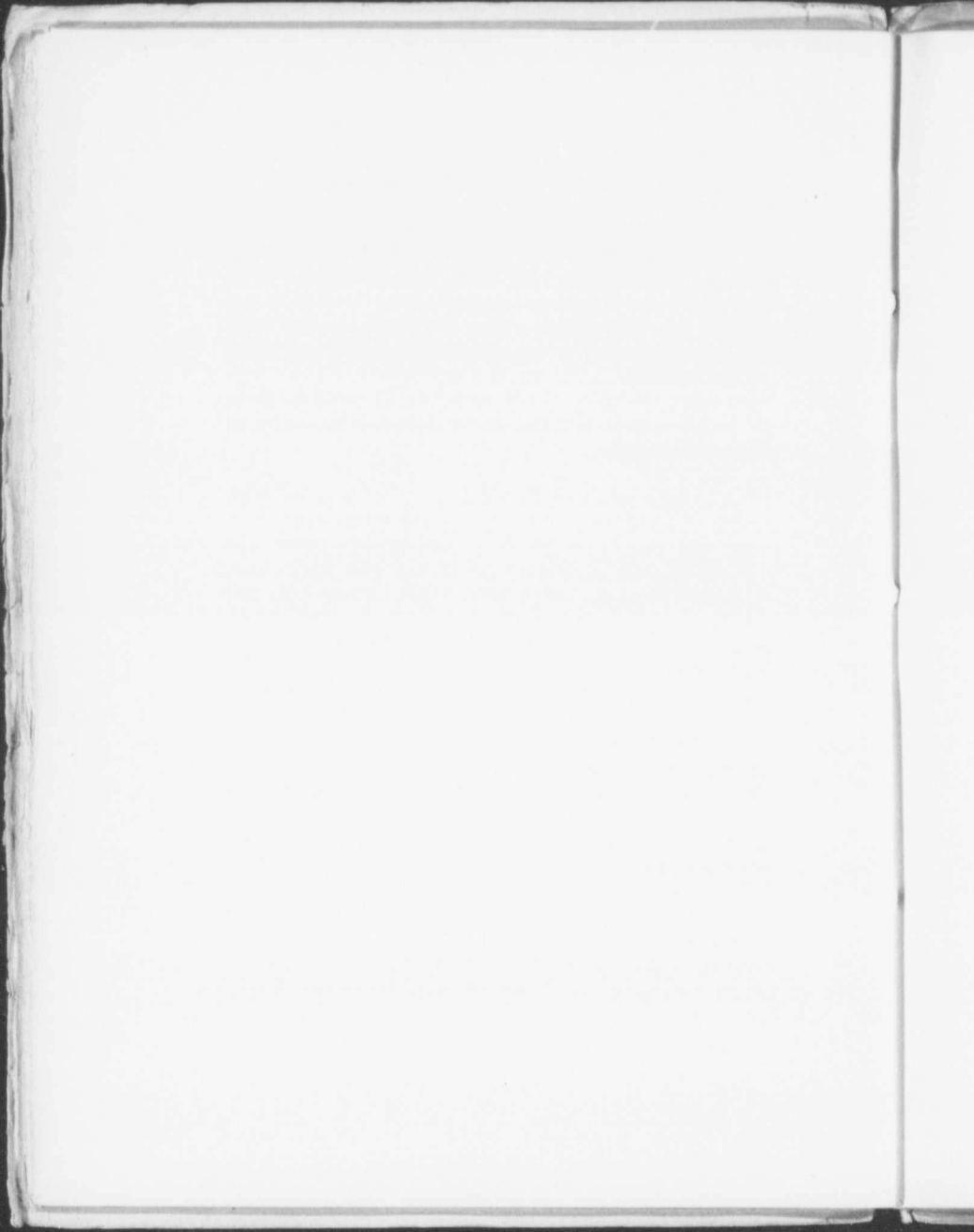
“It was not however for some years later, after he had attached himself to the congregation of St.



George's, that I came to know him intimately. During all the years that he was associated with us he was one of the most useful and helpful men that we had. Dr. Macmillan has just said that he was one of the best friends the Collegiate Institute ever had and I can say with equal confidence that he was one of the best friends that St. George's ever had. There was no man upon whose judgment we placed more reliance. Always a busy man, yet he was ever ready to give of his time to the consideration of matters that had to do with the well being of the community.

“And what a delightful man he was to work with! I heard some one say the other day that there were two classes of people in the world—those who did things and those who asked why the things done were not done the other way. Mr. Greene was pre-eminently a man who *did* things and who was always ready to help others who were trying to do things. His value as a public man was known to us all—that has been fully dwelt upon by other speakers, and I need not therefore refer to it; but I fancy even those who knew him best knew but little of the incidental kindnesses that he loved to do in a private unostentatious way. I remember a railway man telling me on one occasion that but for Mr. Greene there was a time when he would not have had a roof over his head.

“The last day I saw him, just before his trip down South, I had occasion to report to him on the case of a young cripple in whom he was interested. These and such like things he loved to do, and here it



was that the genuine worth of the man was clearly evidenced.

“I know how deeply interested he was in this Collegiate Institute. It is therefore most fitting that his portrait should hang on its walls. I am glad to know that the artist is an old St. George's boy—I congratulate him on the excellent likeness he has produced.”

The ceremony closed with the singing of the National Anthem.