

## REV. DR. G. J. McLELLAN

The duties of the Rector of St. Dunstan's University are so intimately connected with the Institution itself, that one term suggests the other. So, for the past eight years, the names St. Dunstan's and Rev. Dr. McLellan have been inseparable. The thought of one could not come to the student's mind without the other. We had known no other Rector, and, indeed, while he was with us, we wished to know no other, for he satisfied completely the requirements of our ideal. For this reason, then, the students were astonished, when, during the summer holidays, the news was spread abroad that Dr. McLellan had received an appointment to a parish. Questions followed (fast upon one another.) "Is it true?" "Where is he going?" "Who will be Rector?"

These were all answered with certainty, and we were made to realize, in a striking way, the vicissitudes of life.

Dr. McLellan came to St. Dunstan's as Rector, in September, 1915. He was not unfamiliar with the place. He had made his classical course at the college, and after ordination, he had taught two years here. But ten years as a busy city pastor, with the additional cares of the lengthy and final infirmity of the late Bishop McDonald, the financing of the Cathedral debt, then, the heart-rending catastrophe—the complete destruction of that Cathedral, and finally the building of a new St. Dunstan's, all these must have estranged him from the work he was now allotted to do. However, that invincible yet patient and unobtrusive determination, which we have since learned to know and admire, stood him in good stead.

As a student they must have laid a solid foundation for his studies; he had evidently grasped well the truth of the proverb, "What is worth doing, is worth doing well." So, when called upon to impart that knowledge, he could do so in a positive, clear, and succinct manner. It was not

in vain that, while at the Seminary, he had walked with Lortie, "*Lux Nostra*," as the peripatetics of old with their master Aristotle, and gathered carefully the words of wisdom that fell from the master's lips. Those who had the pleasure of listening to his philosophy lectures fully realize the thoroughness with which he had studied it. But knowledge alone is not sufficient in a teacher; the imparting of that knowledge is equally as important as the possessing of it. This art Dr. McLellan had in a degree rarely found among teachers. It seemed to be his delight at times to propose a difficulty and allow the class to entangle itself in the intricate subtleties with which philosophy is replete, then, with a word, to dispell the cloud that hung over our intellects, point out the fallacy of our arguments, and generate in our minds truth, one and immutable.

Nor was the scope of Dr. McLellan's activity confined to the teaching of Philosophy alone. Time and again, he has demonstrated his ability to teach many subjects in a masterly way, and we might be inclined to think any subject, for his comprehensive general knowledge, coupled with an unusual capacity for study, and an uncommon share of sound sense, fitted him well both for routine and emergency. All were at home in his classes; the brilliant because they learned much, the less brilliant because they learned some things. As an administrator, he showed himself master of every situation. Perhaps no other place but a college can present such a variety of difficulties, such problems to meet, such obstacles to overcome. Yet, with a firm hand and a calm bearing, he made all things run smoothly. The part of disciplinarian, too, fell to his lot, and he commanded obedience, not from fear on the part of his subjects, but from a deep-rooted respect, which he never failed to excite in those with whom he had dealings. Many a delinquent, guilty of "*High crimes and misdemeanours*," will recall with grateful heart his kindly admonition, more effective sometimes than condign punishment. Seemingly



he was conversant with that principle of Lincoln: "severest justice is not always the best policy."

As teacher, as administrator, as disciplinarian, he played a role difficult to be duplicated. Truly he was a man of many parts; but in no sphere of his college activity did he exercise more influence for good, for character building, for the training of honourable, God-fearing men, than he did in his advice or talks, from time to time. As he stood before the students, to give them a heart to heart talk, his noble stature was emblematic of his noble character, and the noble principles which actuated him. No petty, jealous, or selfish motive incited him to action. When he spoke his hearers felt, yes knew, that he was moved by an innate unselfish love for righteousness, and a laudable desire to enkindle in the souls of others that same virtue. When reproof was necessary, he gave it with such vehemence that it could not fail to have its effect. Exhortation was given with a depth of earnestness that impelled action. And so fatherly an interest attended his advice that one marveled at his concern for those around him. Summing up these qualities, one can readily justify our regret at his departure; and well may we apply Shakespeare's words to him:

"His life was gentle and the elements  
So mixed in him that nature might stand up,  
And say to all the world, 'This was a man!'"

St. Dunstan's passed through critical changes during the Rectorship of Dr. McLellan. It obtained its charter and took its place in the rank of Universities. Dalton Hall was built and the enrollment almost doubled, thus demanding radical changes to cope with the new conditions. Again the Great War was fought and won during this time, and that marked unrest of inter-bellum and post bellum days was strikingly felt within college walls. It required strong leadership to meet these problems as they arose, and strong leadership they met at the hands of Dr.

McLellan, who turned seeming difficulties to advantage and to the prosperity of the University. It has much to thank him for, and his name will go down in its annals as one of its greatest Rectors.

Not only does the Institution owe him a debt of gratitude, but each and every student who came under his charge during his eight years of work here, has a grateful remembrance for the "Rector" as he was generally called. We feel confident that he will make an ideal pastor of souls, and will render great service to God and to the Church in whatever station of life he may labour. And we earnestly trust that God will continue to bless his work, and that He will spare him many years to labor in the harvest, and garner souls for the Master.

