

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY, COBOURG.

AMONG the oldest and best known educational institutions of this country stands the one of which we give an illustration and short description today. It owed its origin and short description today. It owed its origin to the dissatisfaction felt in many quarters with some of the conditions imposed upon higher education in this country in the olden time. The Methodist Church and a section of the Presbyterian Church took almost simultaneous action in this matter. As early as 1828 the Methodist Conference passed a resolution in favor of an institution for higher education of the youth of both sexes, and soon after proceeded to the erection of the necessary buildings. The original building was commenced in 1832; and in 1836 the institution was established by royal charter as "Upper Canada Academy," and opened for classes under the principalship of the Rev. Dr. Richey.

Good progress was made for the ensuing five years, when the Church, under whose patronage it was carried on, saw the necessity of taking still higher ground on the educational questions of the day. Accordingly, in 1841, the managers secured university powers; and the institution developed into the University of Victoria College,—the late Rev. Dr. Ryerson being the first President. He was succeeded in 1844 by Rev. Dr. MacNab, who remained in charge for six years, when in September, 1850, thirty-seven years ago, the Rev. Dr. Nelles was appointed to the Presidency. This able and well-known educationist, who has become a veteran figure-head in educational affairs, still occupies the presidential chair.

At the time of Dr. Nelles' appointment, the operations of the college consisted solely of the Faculty of Arts and of a preparatory department, designed to prepare students for entrance to the university course. Under his administration, however, the operations have been very greatly extended. The Faculty of Medicine was added in 1854; the Faculty of Law in 1862; and the Faculty of Theology in 1872. In 1875 a special effort was made to promote the efficiency of the Science Department. In that year Faraday Hall was erected; and since that time, under the professorship of Dr. Haanel, who is known as one of the most successful and enthusiastic educators in science on the continent, the science course at Victoria has enjoyed a most favorable reputation throughout this Dominion. The illustration which we give on this page is that of "Faraday Hall," the building in which, under three professors, are conducted the scientific, mathematical, and astronomical departments of the University. A special degree, B. Sc., is conferred on all students who complete the scientific course.

The fact that Victoria was established and conducted under denominational control left the impression on some that it was simply what is known as a "sectarian" institution. Such, however, has never been its character. It has ever striven to give a broad and liberal culture in the arts; it has thrown open its doors to all comers, without restriction or condition other than that pertaining to the necessary educational standard; and in the

development and advancement of its curriculum it has kept abreast of the educational requirements of the country. Indeed, it was not till the withdrawal of the Government grant, in 1872, over thirty years after its acquirement of University powers, that it established its Theological Faculty. The latter faculty, however, of which Rev. Dr. Burwash is Dean, supported by a competent staff of lecturers, is now doing very efficient work in its special direction. The degree of Bachelor in Divinity is conferred on the completion of a three years' heavy course after matriculation; it being a condition that the candidate for B.D. must first be a graduate in arts.

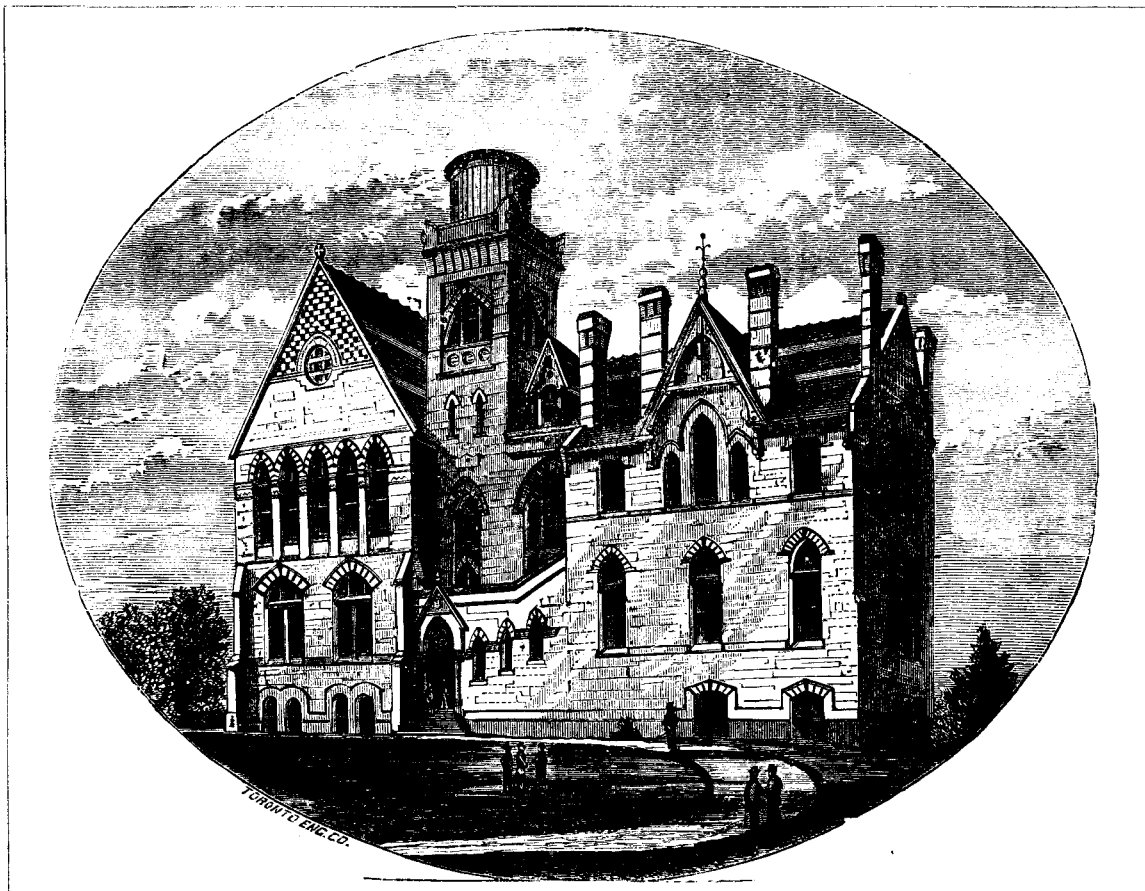
Under an arrangement supervised by the Ontario Education Department, local matriculation examinations, concurrent with those for teachers' certificates, are now held in various parts of the country. This proves of great advantage and convenience to students; and as Victoria, Queen's and Trinity have all come under this provincial arrangement, the papers being prepared by a common Board of Examiners, the standard of matriculation is the same in these and in the Provincial

bright. The graduating class of the past year was the largest in its history; while the number of students in its various faculties, as reported in the latest calendar, is no fewer than 731. A very large matriculating class is entering for the coming session, which opens the 1st of October; and with its two well established feeders,—Albert College, with the University connected with which it was consolidated in 1883, and which college has since been affiliated with it, and Cobourg Collegiate Institute, which is its affiliated preparatory Department,—it should not be short of matriculants in the coming years. In addition, its growing favor as a thorough educating institution is attracting an increasing number of students from the high schools and collegiate institutes in all parts of the country.

The question of Federation, in which this institution is interested, it is not our province to discuss. Under the action of the General Conference, the consummation of this scheme is understood to depend only on the success of the effort to raise the money. There is no doubt, however, that the Church, both in numbers, and in ability and influence, is most seriously divided on the question of the consistency and wisdom of the step which has been taken. But whether the consummation of this arrangement be near or remote, Victoria University will proceed with its usual work till the change is made; and we know of no institution better adapted to the purposes of young teachers who may desire to take a few years at college, or more worthy of their support. It has built up hundreds of young men in similar circumstances; and, by way of a word in another direction, it was the first Canadian University to open its doors to ladies, and to encourage them to enter the lists for the higher regions of learning, which it thinks they have a right to occupy in common with the sterner sex.

A word as to its cognate advantages. Victoria is located in the pleasant town of Cobourg, where the student can enjoy a desirable retirement for all purposes of study, and yet have all the attraction and excitement which he requires. He has also the advantages of a healthful location, a comparatively low bill of expenses, and good society,—one of the features of which latter advantage is an acquaintance with the professors from whom he derives his instruction, thus reaping the benefit of their association and experience even outside of the classroom. The various college societies, also, with their valuable libraries, and their literary and oratorical exercises, are of great advantage to the ambitious student; and at Victoria these are carried on with unusual vigor and success.

The graduates of this University are represented in the Senate and on the Board of Regents under arrangements set forth in the Charter. The Senate has been aiming, for years, to make the course of study as thorough and as serviceable to the student as possible; while the Board is equally desirous to maintain the efficiency of the equipments. For late successes in this direction, the institution is indebted to the good management and generosity of its indefatigable Bursar, George A. Cox, Esq.



FARADAY HALL, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY, SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICAL DEPARTMENTS.

University. Starting upon this high basis, Victoria puts her students through an "all round" course of study which, for wise selection of subjects and thoroughness in drill, is certainly not surpassed in the country. There are well sustained chairs in all the branches of a full University course. One of the secrets of the success of this institution is the requirement of attendance at daily "grind" in the classes through the entire four years. A dispensation is granted from such attendance only under urgent conditions. Thoroughness is therefore a feature of the instruction; and the results of this system are apparent in the general success of the graduates of this University in all the departments of professional and business life.

In the number of these graduates Victoria has made a most suggestive mark upon the educational face of the country. They number 2,216; and of these over 500 are in the Faculty of Arts. Thus, almost entirely unaided by public funds, this useful institution has contributed to the educational advancement of this Dominion in a manner which fully justifies the action of its founders, taken at a time when the cause of higher education was not in such a promising condition as it is at present.

The prospects of this institution are deservedly