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QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

A HISTORICAL SKETCH.

AS early as 1832, the year after the constitution of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the first steps were taken towards the founding of a college at Kingston. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church drew up a minute stating the necessity for such an institution, and urging the advisability of seeking aid from the Government for its establishment.

The population of Canada was at that time rapidly increasing, and only a very scanty supply of teachers and ministers were obtainable from the mother country. Every year the need of an institution for the training of Canadian youth became more pressing, and every year the subject was brought before the Synod down to 1839. It is true that in 1837 a charter had been granted by George IV, by which the large endowment previously granted by George III for Universities throughout the Province was assigned to one University, to be called King's College. Nothing, however, had been done at this time towards opening King's College, for whose establishment the claims of other parts of Upper Canada had been set aside, nor were its provisions and management—from their exclusive nature—

likely to be satisfactory to the majority of the people. At a meeting in 1838, in Montreal, it was unanimously agreed to proceed to the foundation of a higher educational institution, and the necessary measures were at once taken towards this end. At a meeting in Kingston of the Synod in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada it was decided that the proposed College should be established, and an appeal was issued to the community in general for assistance. Meetings were immediately held, at the first of which in Toronto subscriptions to the amount of £600 were subscribed on the spot. Much interest was shown both in the Mother Country and throughout Ontario in the scheme, and from this time in the hands of a band of unwearied and devoted men the work went steadily on. Chief among the promoters of the scheme were the following distinguished men, whose unflagging zeal carried them safely through the grave financial and educational difficulties which beset the undertaking. The Hon. Wm. Morris, Rev. Robert McGill, Rev. Alex. Gale, Rev. Wm. Rintoul, Rev. John Machar, Rev. John Cook, Hon. John Hamilton, and Mr. John A. Macdonald (afterwards Sir John A. Macdonald), were men of great intellec-