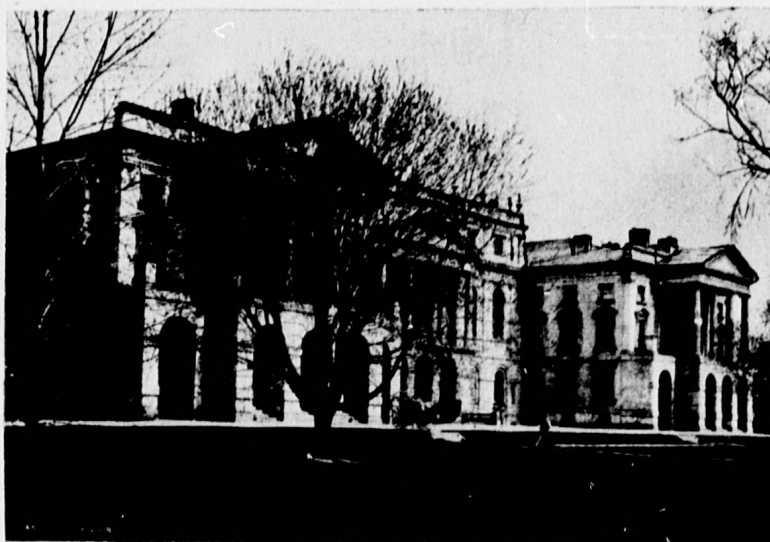


extravagant and even visionary. It has come to pass, nevertheless, that this thoroughfare is a reality, and its width is not considered now as being anything especially out-of-the-way for a street which seems likely to be in the future the axis of Toronto, its dividing line into east and west. Unfavourable to the picturesque as is the parallelogram arrangement of streets in theory, in practice a good deal of impressiveness often results therefrom, and even beauty, so long as the roadways are wide and the building-lots continue to be spacious. Fine vistas are secured, and in certain localities the array of comfortable residences coming in quick succession on both sides is a sight quite pleasant to see. The free currents of pure air, too, which this arrangement permits, and the facilities which it affords for a good system of sewers, are points in its favour. Their city planned from the beginning on ideal lines, the inhabitants as their riches have increased have shown themselves well inclined to give some play to the ideal in several respects. Their churches, for example, have become very numerous, and quite sumptuous. From several points of



OSCOODE HALL, THE SEAT OF THE LAW COURTS.

view, the sky-line is agreeably varied by the spires, towers, gables, turrets and pinnacles appertaining to these, while, below, the buildings themselves are most of them good specimens of style and substantial masonry, with extensive grounds surrounding them in several instances, tastefully planted and carefully kept; the church itself consisting not merely of a solitary temple, as formerly, but of a cluster of apartments or halls, all of them rendered necessary by the exigencies of the church life revived everywhere in these days—schools, lecture-rooms, class-rooms and libraries, to say nothing of appliances in some of them for the more convenient furnishing forth of acceptable mundane refreshments to large social gatherings on festive occasions.

Again, from the extraordinary multiplication of very beautiful residences on every side, round and in the town, it is evident that a high ideal of a refined domestic life is present to the minds of a great number of the inhabitants. But a tendency to the ideal in another direction has of late years particularly asserted itself, in the deliberate pulling down of barriers and throwing open to the public view the groves and other ornamental surroundings of private residences. A laudable desire is thus shown to come near to the condition of a perfect community, wherein moral defences suffice for the protection of property, and implicit confidence is put in the civility and good-will of neighbours and the public at large. To plan houses and lay out grounds from the very first so as to conform to the new practice is now, as a matter of fact, quite common. All this is cheering as evidence of social progress. It likewise contributes to the general good appearance of the town. Already a certain noble air of spaciousness



TORONTO UNIVERSITY, AS SEEN FROM THE VOLUNTEERS' MONUMENT.

has been given to several thoroughfares and to the grounds bordering on them, an effect promoted also by the modern fashion of boulevarding. Then again, stroll round and inspect the educational institutions of the place, from the Universities and Departmental Establishment downward, and see how many things there are in their internal and external arrangements and their respective environments, which more than come up to the imaginings and hopes of the old speculative writers on such subjects. Or let the benevolent institutions be visited, the hospitals, asylums, refuges, homes for the young and old, and let the general roominess and pleasantness of each be noted, or go to the