

The Tyro.

CANADIAN LITERARY INSTITUTE.

VOL. I.]

JULY, 1872.

[No. 1.

OUR ALMA MATER.

THE TYRO in making its bow to the public, and soliciting for itself a candid hearing, cannot avoid saying something about our Alma Mater, who has embraced us in her loving arms, and watched over and stimulated our intellectual growth thus far. Thirteen years ago the Institute at Woodstock was opened for instruction. The school was organized on the fourth of July, 1860; and by the end of the first short term, there were between thirty and forty pupils on the roll. The second term the attendance was nearly double the above number. But before the third term, opened the Institute buildings were burned down. On the morning of the 8th of January, 1861, on the spot where our present noble edifice stands, there was nothing but a pile of smoking ruins. When the former edifice (which was not quite finished) was burned, the Trustees had only eight thousand dollars insurance on it, and they owed thirteen thousand six hundred dollars. Few then had any confidence in the Baptists being able to organize a good school, and hence up to this time contributions came in grudgingly. But the terrible calamity which came upon the Institute at the very threshold of its career, touched the great heart of the Denomination, and in fourteen weeks twenty-one thousand six hundred dollars were subscribed to rebuild the Institute edifice, and pay off the debt. The Hon. Wm. McMaster, who has more than once inaugurated schemes which have resulted in great good to our educational interests, promptly came forward