

King's College Has Historic Associations and Distinguished Graduates

Interesting Sketch of Oldest College in Canada, Written by a Graduate.

Amalgamation Question Often Debated and May Still Prove a Live Issue

Mistake Was Made at Founding of Limiting Attendance to Church of England.

Science Course Lately Improved and Now Ranks With Best in Maritime Provinces.

To the charming town of Windsor, Nova Scotia, so long associated with the name of the immortal "Sam Slick," belongs the honor of having within its limits the oldest university not only in the Dominion of Canada, but in the British colonies.

Situate in beautiful grounds, amongst stately trees and sloping lawns stands King's college.

No more beautiful spot could have been selected for this institution of learning.

The college, a venerable brown building in the dignified colonial style of its early days, stands on the summit of a high hill approached by an avenue of graceful elms. It is the first object of interest seen by the traveler from the Atlantic coast as he enters the town of Windsor. From its eminence it looks over the green King's Meadows and across rolling fields which the French settlers cleared, and the thrifty New England farmers cultivated.

Far away beyond stand the mountains, blue and misty, still now apparently as densely wooded as in the days when Indians hunted them as their stronghold, and the hunted Acadians sought shelter in their recesses from alien foes.

The university grounds are undoubtedly the most beautiful of any college in Lower Canada. They include two large campuses, tennis courts, etc. The college occupies the pride of place in Windsor and it is there that the stranger is first conducted on a sight seeing tour of the town. The grounds cover an area of about eight acres, and include two fair sized lakes in the woods.

The history of the founding of King's College is deeply interesting and takes us back to the time of the Revolutionary war. At the close of the war several clergymen from the colonies along the Atlantic coast met together in the City of New York. The assembly was one of distinguished men. Of those present were the first Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, the Right Rev. Benjamin Moore, D.D., Bishop of New York; Hon. Jonathan Odell, John Bardsley, of Loyalist fame, and the Right Rev. Henry Charles Inglis, D.D., Bishop of Nova Scotia, first Colonial Bishop of the Church of England, and fourth Bishop of the Anglican Communion in America. The latter may be mentioned, was the real instigator of the movement, and to him is due the primary credit of founding King's college.

Reasons for Founding. One great reason advanced in favor of founding a university in Nova Scotia was that there was then no existing Church of England institution of learning where the members of that body could receive a higher education. But what was considered even of more importance, that the first reason was the one given by the Right Rev. Inglis in 1787. "One great object of my appointment is to ordain candidates for holy orders, to supply vacant churches with clergymen who cannot be supplied from Europe. But if there be no seminaries we cannot expect any to be duly educated and qualified for orders, which consequently none can be ordained, so that, in fact, the want of a seminary will totally defeat in this respect, one principle object which no government has in view, by appointing a bishop, as well as the benefits thereby intended for the Church of England."

strong enough to overcome the strength of historic associations and the fear of secular tendencies of large universities. The Governor of King's decided in favor of the union; but the alumni, strongly attached to the old college with its historic connection with the Church, and its charming associations with Windsor, resisted stoutly, and were supported with great vigor by the people of Windsor. Again offers of assistance came from England and from many alumni. Confederation ceased to be a live question in 1855.

The fourth movement was initiated by King's College in 1891. Dalhousie promptly and liberally responded. Prosperity and large endowments had made Mount Allison indifferent. Her Board of Regents declined the offer. Acadia left the matter in the hands of the Baptist Convention, who were not in favor of the idea. The University of New Brunswick also declined. Her relations to the Provincial Treasury were such that that legislative union seemed to them to be the only way to insure college union. Despite this, however, there is a large number of the members of the Church of England who warmly supported the amalgamation with Dalhousie scheme. The college's former members were divided. Her finances were in an impoverished condition and there were less than a dozen students in attendance. The proposal was sought bitterly on both sides. Again it was the alumni and its rather imperfect constitution that saved King's to Windsor and the Church of England. The Board of Governors were about equally divided on the subject. The destinies of the college, therefore, lay in the hands of the incoming governors, who were annually elected by the alumni. As that constitution of that body then stood the only qualification necessary for membership was the payment of a fee of two dollars. It was not necessary to be a graduate or even an undergraduate of the university. The presence of the college men, graduates and non-graduates, was greatly strengthened as a result of the efforts of Professor Bober.

It may be mentioned that recently the constitution of the alumni has been amended by the Provincial Legislature, and now none but graduates of the University are eligible. In 1854 the Provincial Government withdrew its annual grant, and the old board of governors was replaced by one elected by the alumni, who at once set to work developing the college. Their first step was the raising of 10,000 pounds sterling to establish a chair of science. The very best equipment possible for the time was secured, and a proficient and enthusiastic chemist and mineralogist, Henry How, of Glasgow, was appointed to the professorship, which he held till his death in 1880. It is appropriate to mention that a year or two ago the science course was greatly strengthened as a result of the efforts of Professor Bober.

In 1858 the alumni undertook the erection of houses for the professors on the college grounds. They also built Convocation Hall, which was opened at the Encaenia of 1863. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has ever been a warm friend of King's, and it is largely due to their efforts that the college did not fall on several occasions. Between the years 1869 and 1884 that society contributed no less than \$28,000 in the form of Endowment of Divinity Scholarships exhibitions and annual grants.

It was in the year 1833 that the University of King's college first became recognized by the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton. Since that date the Bishop of Fredericton has been an ex-officio member of the executive of the board of governors; that synod has had the appointment of several representatives on the board, and King's college has the Theological Training Seminary for that Diocese. The origin of this library is extremely interesting, and is thus described by the Right Rev. John Inglis, third Bishop of Nova Scotia, in his memoranda respecting King's college at Windsor, in Nova Scotia, published in Halifax in 1836.

"In the latter end of the year 1800, the compiler of these Memoranda, who had been educated chiefly at Windsor, sailed for England. He was entrusted by the Governors of the college with the contributions of themselves, and a few other friends of the institution, to the amount of 250 pounds sterling for the purchase of books, as a foundation for a library for the province—and he was honored with a commission to take any measures, which might be approved by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Moore), the Bishops of London and

Richmond (Dr. Porteus and Horsley) and Scrope Bernard, Esq., the provincial agent, to promote the interest of the King's college. Much exertion was made to promote these interests in various ways. But this exertion was made under the fullest conviction that the Church and the college were indissolubly connected. The station and offices of the Patrons, under whom that exertion was made, were a guarantee for such conviction. That conviction was the plea under which assistance was solicited and obtained. Books to the amount of more than five times the amount originally subscribed were collected and forwarded to Nova Scotia; and a permanent feeling of regard for the institution was happily established among a large portion of the English Bishops and clergy, and at the universities in England and Ireland. And here it may be mentioned, that several of the most liberal contributors to the college, withheld their gifts, until they could be satisfied of a real connection between the college and the church."

This library, therefore, may be said to have ever fallen to its lot. When viewed from a bibliophile's standpoint as a repository of fine, rare and sumptuous editions, it has few, if any, rivals in this part of the continent. An idea of the richness of the library can be gained from the fact that it contains the editions of Aristotle, Aelianus' History, Anaxorion's Odes, Appianus' History, Aristotle's History, Christonius' Complete works, Milton's Paradise Lost, Plato's Republic, Aelianus' History, Propertius' History, and numerous other works, all of the greatest rarity, finess and value, and many of which cannot be seen elsewhere in America.

No less than eighteen volumes are from the very famous Aldine Press, undoubted examples, including the finest of its many beautiful productions, the Aristotle of 1485. This equals the total number exhibited at Montreal during the Caxton celebration in 1877. Of Elizabethan editions, we find twenty volumes, or sixteen works and the Stephens press of Paris is represented by sixteen volumes. Besides these, the shelves bear works from the presses of Jenson, at Venice, Koburger, at Nuremberg, Froben, at Basel, Platini, at Antwerp, Badius, at Paris, and many other printers, who were distinguished for the beauty, excellence and literary value of their work.

The collection of Bibles is very fine. It includes among many other rare volumes a perfect copy of the first Koberger edition of 1475, which, according to the late G. B. Akins, Esq., D. C. L., is perhaps the oldest copy of the Latin Bible in the Dominion of Canada, and possibly older than any in the United States. It consists of two folios, printed in Gothic letter, with the recto of the first leaf illuminated, and the text bearing manuscript rubrications. The binding is finely toolled and of calf. The earliest English Bible is the editio princeps of the Bishop's Bible, 1568, with wood cuts.

The curious may care to know that the smallest book in the collection is Rich's New Testament in Short-hand, London 16—measuring 2 1/4 by 1 1/2 inches; and the largest, Albinus Musculus of the Human Body, London, 1749, measuring 28 by 20 inches. That so many valuable and rare books should have been collected in the library of a colonial university, will be a surprise to many. But the names of the contributors and of those who urged and prosecuted this gathering of books supply the explanation. Amongst these may be mentioned the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, Lord Eardly, William Wilberforce, M. P., Sir W. Warren, Baron Mauser, and the University of Oxford.

Curiosities. The Museum at King's contains not only valuable scientific collections, but many things of interest to the lay mind. To many the chief centre of interest is the beautiful collection of old Loyalist china which is extremely valuable and numbers over three hundred pieces. This was the gift of Judge and Mrs. Weldon, of Fredericton, N. B., and was presented in 1880 in memory of their only son, Halliburton Weldon, who graduated from King's in 1868. There are two swords in the small wall-case opposite the door, which are of particular interest. One is a curious Sikh weapon, without a scabbard, which was worn by Major Sir J. E. W. Inglis during the siege of Lucknow, and the other is the sword worn by General Sir Frederick Williams during his gallant defence of

Sir James Cochrane, Chief Justice of Gibraltar; The Right Rev. John Inglis, third Bishop of Nova Scotia; Hon. Sir James Stewart, Attorney-General of Lower Canada; The Right Rev. Hilbert Binney, fourth Bishop of Nova Scotia; The Rev. Dr. Barckley of Trinity Church, New York; and the Right Hon. Baron Halliburton, of Windsor, a son of "Sam Slick."

King's college possesses a library which, although not of large size, must nevertheless be considered one of the most valuable collections of Bibliographical treasures which the Dominion of Canada holds.

Charters. On the top of the case which contains these swords stands a magnificent bust of General Williams. Amongst the objects of ethnological interest are a number of articles of Maori clothing, worked with silks and gold. A large collection of Zulu assets is particularly valuable.

The collections of coins is very extensive, and contains some specimens of great rarity. Several coins dating from the time of the Roman Empire have been highly valued by experts in numismatics who have come to Windsor to examine them. Amongst autographs may be mentioned those of George III and Queen Victoria; of Thomas Moore (on the fly leaf of a copy of Lucian which he presented on the occasion of his visit to the college in 1804); of Isaac Watts and of Charles Inglis.

A sketch of this ancient seat of learning would not be complete without at least brief mention of the collegiate school, which has ever been closely allied with the history of King's College. This preparatory seminary was established a year before Kings was founded and had as its object the supplying of students for the University of Kings College, now the oldest university in the British colonies beyond the seas.

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