

"Then, consider that the same Institution is designed, secondly for the instruction in the elements of general literature and science, of such as may desire to cultivate them for secular professions.

"The education which is preparative for the study of Theology, is also preparative for the study of other sciences. And, if this be given as we would have it done, in harmony with Divine Truth, and in connexion with a Christian discipline over our students, then, we doubt not that many parents, who justly think learning too dearly purchased for their children, at the ordinary risk of having their principles and morals corrupted, will be glad to send them to our Institution.

"The Commission after much deliberation have determined on commencing the Institution with two professors and two assistants or tutors. The selection of the professors in the first instance, is to be with the Committee on colonial churches of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Eminent talents, well disciplined by study, and consecrated to the cause of true religion, are the qualifications we will look for in our teachers.

"And we humbly pray and hope that the Great Head of the Church, who has raised up such men as Dr. Duff and his co-adjutors, for Hindostan will put it into the hearts of men of like gifts and piety, to give themselves to the advancement of his cause in this land, by stationing themselves at the fountain-heads of learning in it.

"For the founding of the Institution, on the scale now mentioned, we look for aid from the mother country: and communications are about to be sent to the Committee of the General Assembly, the Committee of the Glasgow Colonial Missionary Society, Presbyteries in England and the Synod of Ulster.

"Yet we entertain the full conviction, and we would have you feel the same, that our own exertions and sacrifices towards this great work will be the measure of the assistance that we may expect from other quarters. Christians and churches elsewhere, yea, and the State itself may be expected to help us when they see that we are in earnest in carrying it forward.

"We do therefore entreat you, friends and brethren, by the vast importance and the necessity of this undertaking, to assist us in it by large and bountiful offerings.

"Think how the Israelites in the wilderness responded to the call of Moses for offerings of gold and silver and precious stones and suitable furniture, for the erection and adornment of the movable sanctuary, in which the cloud of glory dwelt, even so, as that their liberality had ultimately to be restrained,—and shall the population of the Canadas, acknowledging a connexion with the Presbyterian Church, amounting as is said to 100,000 souls, feel it too great a burden to raise eighty or one hundred thousand dollars for objects so momentous as the training of youths for the ministry of the Gospel, and for the professions which the necessities of secular life require?"

In another document, to which wide circulation was given, appealing specially to the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church throughout the Province, it was explained that although the establishment of the theological branch was then considered the most urgent, it was the desire and purpose of the founders to provide for, and embrace, a complete course of literary and scientific education. It was further explained that the Committee was pledged to raise \$25,000 within six months as an endowment for one professor, and it was estimated that a total subscription of from \$120,000 to \$160,000 would be necessary. The active promoters of the scheme looked for some assistance from the Public Treasury; and they expected that the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland would endow a theological chair, but they relied mainly on private contributions for the means of establishing and maintaining the proposed seminary of

learning. The design of the founders was sufficiently comprehensive, but they were wise enough to know their poverty, and prudent enough not to undertake more than was practicable. It was enough for them to originate an institution that, while making provision for present and actual needs, would admit of indefinite enlargement, and keep pace with the growth of the country. Their design was to erect at first a humble superstructure sufficient for their most pressing wants: but to lay the substructure broad and deep, leaving to another generation the work of extending and completing the edifice. By this prudent course they hoped to avoid the indiscretion of outrunning the limited means at their command. They saw that the establishment and complete equipment of such a collegiate institution as the future might demand, was then beyond the wants, and still more beyond the means, of a young and struggling community, and that, without abandoning the idea, they would act wisely in postponing the attempt to reach its complete fulfilment.

Legislative authority was sought, and early in 1840, the Governor-General gave his assent to a Bill, entitled "An Act to establish a College by the name and style of 'The University at Kingston.'" The year following Her Majesty was graciously pleased to grant a Royal Charter, by which the name of "Queen's" was authorized to be used, and the style, rights, and privileges of a University were conferred. October 16th, the date of the Royal Charter, has since been known as "University Day," and as such is duly celebrated annually.

The College was opened for the first time on the 7th of March, 1842, for half a session. For this purpose a small private house was hired, and two professors were engaged. Of the students who presented themselves for matriculation, only three passed the examination. The small number of young men prepared to matriculate revealed the fact that education in Canada was then at an extremely low ebb, and it became necessary to open a junior class for those who failed to matriculate.

This was not an auspicious commencement, but the promoters of the College had cause to rejoice that the long cherished scheme which they had struggled to commence was assuming form, and that the actual beginning had been made. They were in no way discouraged by the prospect which presented itself. They remembered, doubtless, that although some of the ancient seats of learning in the Old World were founded by Popes and Sovereigns, and were richly endowed by Church and State, a few of the most famous Universities had a very humble origin, and were indebted for their subsequent progress to the liberality of private individuals. They would know that Edinburgh University began with only one professor, and that Cambridge—now with a cluster of eighteen or twenty Colleges and Halls—was established in the twelfth century, and found shelter it is said in a farm outbuilding, under the auspices of an abbot and three monks. The early friends of Queen's had faith in the future, and they were encouraged to hope that the Canadian College which they had founded might some day—possibly far distant—resemble those famous seats of learning as much in the splendour of its career, as in the lowliness of its origin. All honour to the men who originated "Queen's," who were moved by aspiring, far-seeing, patriotic minds, and sustained by hopeful and courageous spirits. May the names of her fathers and founders be inscribed on enduring tablets, and remembered by every graduate!

I shall not take up your time with any lengthy reference to the somewhat chequered career of the College since its first session in 1842. For years it was sustained by direct and almost annual appeals for support to the Kirk congregations throughout Canada. In 1854 the Summerhill property was purchased for college buildings, involving further urgent appeals to liquidate the debt incurred. Thir-