



TORONTO IN 1834.

Dr. Stuart died and his son succeeded him in his position. Dr. Strachan was then removed from Cornwall to York, where began that remarkable career of energy and zeal which is so closely connected with the history of the Church of England in Canada. York was then a small wooden town of about 1400 inhabitants. Its first church was a wooden structure of the plainest nature, but here the leading families of the young colony used to worship. Their rector was called upon to fill important positions, both civil and ecclesiastical. Those were days when leading ecclesiastics were expected to be closely connected with the politics of the hour. They were days, too, when such characters as Dr. Strachan, possessed as he was of good education and resolute will, were needed to guide the infant steps of a growing colony, and accordingly we are not surprised to find that, in 1818, he was appointed by the crown a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, and from that date till 1841, when the reunion between Upper and Lower Canada was effected, he continued to take an active part in the legislation of the Province.

During this period great agitations connected with ecclesiastical matters, such as the clergy reserve question, occurred, and though many of the members of the Church of England were themselves apparently indifferent to results connected with them, it was not so with their intrepid chief, who in every way, "in season and out of season," strove hard to found the church on a firm and substantial basis. Into these questions, however, it is impossible for us, in a mere sketch, to enter.

For twenty-seven years Dr. Strachan labored as Rector of St. James' Church, York. In 1825 he was appointed Archdeacon of York, and in 1839 he was nominated by the crown, Bishop of Toronto,

in which capacity he is probably best known.

There lay upon his heart the ever important question of education. By continued exertion and agitation he secured the establishment of King's College as a Church University, and to-day the magnificent building known as the Toronto University stands where the noble bishop had started his darling project. In a church point of view, however, it was wrenched from his hands and secularized, adding one more defeat to the many that he was called upon to endure. But the grounds, known as the Queen's park, now surrounding the University, are the result of the energy and far-seeing policy of the first bishop of Toronto.

Defeat meant for him renewal of strength. Though passed the three score years and ten he crossed the Atlantic and moved the people of England to contribute afresh to the establishment of a new University of whose distinctive Church of England principles and powers there could be no doubt. Among those who contributed to this cause is found the name of W. E. Gladstone. The efforts of the aged bishop were crowned with success, and Trinity College was founded. A noble Church University, it stands supported with a strong endowment, both in land and money, and those who note the wide expanse of land attached to it, may see another instance of the far-seeing policy of Toronto's first bishop.

Indeed, many of the institutions now flourishing and strong may be traced to him. Many of the rectorial endowments throughout the whole of "Upper Canada" are the result of his own personal appeals to men of wealth. He saw that, when the clergy reserves were taken away, the evil might be remedied in the early days when land was cheap, by the voluntary liberality of land owners, and had his appeals been as largely responded to as he hoped,