



THE MAIN BUILDING AFTER THE FIRE.

King's College, as a teaching institution, was inaugurated with great ceremony on the 8th of June, 1843. Its work was carried on in the old Parliament Building on Front Street, pending the erection of the new building in the Park, and in the latter it was carried on until the completion of the present University building in 1858. This was erected at a total cost of \$355,907. It is the most beautiful large building in Canada, and there is none to surpass it in America. Its most formidable rival was the original Parliament Building at Ottawa, but the unquestionable beauty of that edifice has been partly destroyed and partly obscured by subsequent additions to itself and by the erection of other large buildings in its vicinity.

The architects of the present University building were the late F. W. Cumberland, who was afterwards Manager of the Northern Railway, and the late W. G. Storm, whose fame as an artist would have rested on a secure foundation in Toronto, apart altogether from the University, as he was the architect of St. James' Cathedral, St. Andrew's Church and Victoria College. The University building was partly destroyed by fire in 1890. At that time Mr. Storm was alive, and actively engaged in professional work. The obviously proper course for the University authorities was to entrust him with the task of

restoring the edifice of which he had been one of the original designers, the more especially as he had all the plans in his possession. For some unexplained, if not inexplicable, reason, this was not done, and those who are interested in the institution have now to content themselves, so far as outward appearance goes, with a mere restoration, where there might have been a real artistic improvement. The architect of the beautiful library building, which was erected after the fire, was Mr. D. B. Dick, who also had charge of the restoration of the University building. The latter has been greatly improved in its interior, especially by the introduction of modern appliances for heating, lighting, and ventilation.

When King's College was organized in 1843, it was still for all practical purposes an Anglican institution, and it so remained until the Legislature, in 1849, passed an Act which abolished the Faculty of Divinity, and completely secularized it in every respect. By the same Statute its name was changed, the new style being: "The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Toronto." The intervening six years had been filled up with incessant polemics, in which the representatives of the different religious denominations took an active part. Owing to the sectarian character of the King's College Charter,