



The Architecture of a University Building

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WHEN a city assumes importance as an educational centre, we may expect to find in connection with its educational institutions such buildings as will add to the beauty and enhance the interest of that city. If a country is to have an architecture at all we will expect to find it in connection with those institutions which represent the highest and best in the culture of the people. The process of acquiring an education cannot be seen by a visitor to a city, but the buildings in which this process takes place can be, and will always possess an interest to one who may have occasion to be in their vicinity. Oxford and Cambridge, the most celebrated educational centres of English-speaking countries, and perhaps of the world, possess an attraction to a visitor not through the fact that they are educational centres, but because of the interesting architectural character of the university buildings which are the seat of these institutions of culture. While it is to be regretted that the educational institutions of the city of Toronto, which may rank as the foremost educational city of Canada, are not all housed in buildings that may lay claim to some architectural merit, still it is the good fortune of the city to possess in connection with its chief university a building of such excellence as to be

recognized amongst the foremost architectural structures of America. While there are other buildings in Canada that possess considerable merit as examples of the architectural art—the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa in the Gothic style, Osgoode Hall of Toronto, in the Renaissance, and an array of others of more than average excellence—still there is no other that has called forth from travellers, men famous in art, literature and science, as many expressions of admiration and approval as this example of the Norman Romanesque in Queen's Park, Toronto.

There are none of the associations of antiquity about the building. Like everything else in this country of ours, it is new. The erection of the building as it now stands was commenced in the summer of 1856—less than forty-five years ago—three years after the founding of the University of Toronto, or rather after the transforming of the old King's College into the new university under the name it now bears. The building was but three years under course of construction—a remarkably short time for a structure containing so much carefully executed cut stone work as this does.

The building, however, was not destined to pass