

Toronto Conservatory of Music.

ORGANIZATION, HISTORY, OBJECTS, ETC.

THE TORONTO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC may justly claim the honour of being the pioneer institution of its kind in the Dominion of Canada. It is true the name "Conservatory" has in some instances been applied to private institutions which, however, possessed none of the distinctive features of a genuine *Conservatory of Music* in the sense that term is understood in European countries, and therefore the name has been in those cases a misnomer.

It was incorporated under the "Ontario Joint Stock Companies Letters Patent Act" Nov. 20th, 1886, and was first opened to the public in September, 1887.

The amount of its capital stock was placed at \$50,000, thus putting the institution at once upon a solid financial basis. The corporation now contains fifty-seven shareholders, among whom are many of the most influential citizens of Toronto, all desirous of developing in our midst a Canadian Music School which shall be inferior to none on this continent.

The objects of the Conservatory, as stated in its charter, are manifold, but of chief public interest are the following :—

"To furnish instruction in all branches of the Art and Science of Music, and to furnish instruction in such other subjects as may be considered necessary for the fullest development of the students' mental and physical faculties preparatory to their pursuing music as a profession, with full power to acquire and hold by lease, purchase, or otherwise, all lands, buildings, instruments and appliances necessary for the thorough equipment and maintenance of a Conservatory of Music, and to exercise all such powers as may be calculated to advance musical culture and appreciation."

The encouragement met with thus far has greatly exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its founders and friends, and has amply demonstrated the necessity and wisdom of establishing a Conservatory of Music in Canada.

The Conservatory opened in 1887 with about 200 pupils, but the attendance having gradually increased to more than double that number, it has become necessary from time to time to increase, not only the number of teachers in the various departments but also the class room accommodation.