

several writers of eminence. We are too ready to think that books are above our understanding. But he goes on: "If that be the case, the child will soon find it out and desist ;

if not, he of course gains the instruction, which is so much the more likely to come from the inclination with which he takes up the study."

(To be continued.)

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AND WHAT IT HAS DONE FOR CANADA IN THE PAST.

BY FIDELIS, KINGSTON.

AT the time when Queen's University was first founded, the educational appliances of the country were most rudimentary. In Eastern Canada the zeal and energy of the French Jesuits had early made some provision for higher education; but in the still sparsely settled Province of Ontario, it was difficult to find even a respectable Grammar School. Some few there were, chiefly maintained by private enterprise. King's College at Toronto had begun a somewhat languid existence, but its strictly Anglican basis restricted its usefulness almost exclusively to students of the Anglican Church. Even this institution could scarcely be said to be in active working order at the time when the founders of the Presbyterian Church in Canada first began to take vigorous measures towards the accomplishment of an object which for years had been before their minds—that of establishing an institution which should efficiently train an intelligent native ministry.

It was in 1839 that the Synod of the "Church of Scotland in Canada," itself not yet ten years old, began to set to work in earnest to raise funds and make arrangements for a college to be equipped with professors in Arts as well as Theology. For, although their object was, in the first place, the training of students for the Presbyterian ministry—these far-seeing and large-hearted men saw the

importance of *beginning at the beginning*, and of laying, even then, the foundation of a university which should grow with the growth of the country, attaining in time the goodly proportions that we recognize to-day. The first public meeting held in its interest, in response to the recommendation of the Synod, took place in St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, in December, 1839, presided over by its minister, the late Rev. John Machar, D.D., who introduced the subject in an excellent address, still extant; and who was one of the committee appointed to select a site in Kingston—the place which had been chosen for the location of the proposed university. A Royal Charter was applied for, which passed the Great Seal about October, 1841, when the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland at once appointed an Edinburgh clergyman, the Rev. Thomas Liddell, D.D., as the first Principal of Queen's College—the name of the new university, which had been graciously approved by the young queen. A grant towards its support was also made by the Church of Scotland and continued for many years.

This appointment, somewhat prematurely made by the committee in Edinburgh—in happy ignorance of the drawbacks and difficulties that, in a new country, interfere with the sudden equipment of a college—was shortly followed by the arrival of the