

under lease. In consequence of this exchange, a revenue was created; and in 1827 a Royal Charter was granted by King George IV. for establishing at or near the town of York—as Toronto was then called—a college, “with the style and privilege of a University,” to be called King’s College.

But further delay ensued, owing to the attitude towards educational matters of the next Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Colbourne. Under his influence the Royal Grammar School, then in existence at the capital, was transformed into Upper Canada College; in the belief that the educational necessities of the Province would be sufficiently provided for by such an institution. For twelve years, accordingly, a portion of University work proper was carried on, in conjunction with ordinary school training, by the Upper Canada College. After several changes in the administration of the Province, a Lieutenant-Governor of more advanced ideas in the matter of higher education, Sir Charles Bagot, concurred in the view that the long-expected university should be organized; and on the 23rd of April, 1842, the foundation stone of King’s College was laid by Sir Charles Bagot himself, in the Queen’s Park, on the site occupied by the Parliament Buildings.

Until the new buildings should be ready for occupation, the old Parliament House, vacated by the removal of the seat of government under the Union Act of 1840, was appropriated for the carrying on of lectures and other university functions. Faculties of Arts, Medicine, and Divinity were established; and, in 1843, the first matriculation of students took place, and inaugural addresses and lectures were delivered on June 8th and 9th of that year. A portion of the projected buildings in the Queen’s Park was soon ready for occupation—the only portion ever completed

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