



SIR OLIVER MOWAT, K.C.M.G.,  
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario,  
Official Visitor of University of Toronto.

# Historical Sketch

OF THE

## University of Toronto.

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THE history of the University of Toronto covers a period of over one hundred years. Several times during his governorship, General Simcoe urged upon the British Secretary of State the necessity of establishing a university in Upper Canada, and in 1797, the year after his term

of office concluded, a petition was sent to his Majesty, George III., by the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, to appropriate some of the waste lands of the Crown as the source for a fund for the establishment and support of a college or university and grammar schools. The petition was granted, and in the report made by the Executive Council in 1798, there was recommended, among other things, "the establishment of a University in York (Toronto)," and "the appropriation of 500,000 acres of Crown lands for the establishment and maintenance" of the University, and four grammar schools at Kingston, Newark, Cornwall, and Sandwich. The land appropriations were made in 1799, and amounted to 550,274 acres.

From 1799 to 1819 the university project made no progress whatever. After 1819 various negotiations were made, and in 1827 a charter was granted for a university under the title of the "University of King's College." In 1837 preparations were made for the erection of a university building in Toronto. Owing to the Rebellion, however, nothing was accomplished until 1842, when the corner-stone of the building was laid by Sir Charles Bagot, Governor-General of Canada and Chancellor of the new