

LITERATURE.

[FROM THE ROYAL GAZETTE.]

KING'S COLLEGE, NEW-BRUNSWICK.
JANUARY 1, 1829.

INAUGURATION OF THE CHANCELLOR.

The new College having been completed, so far as the season would admit, was delivered over by the Contractors to the Commissioners for superintending the erection of the Building.

So soon as this had taken place, a notification was published in the Royal Gazette, intimating that preparations were making for opening this University, and for Inaugurating His Excellency Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS, Lieutenant-Governor, as Chancellor, on the 1st of January, 1829. And on the following Tuesday, a second notice appeared in the same paper, importing that the Ceremony which we are now about to detail, would take place immediately after Divine Service on the above mentioned day; when His Excellency, with the Members of the different branches of the Legislature, and principal Officers of Government, would proceed from the Church to the College for that purpose.

Pursuant, therefore, to this last intimation, a numerous assemblage of the Inhabitants of Fredericton proceeded, after Divine Service, to the New College: and here, soon afterwards commenced, beyond all question, one of the most important, interesting and impressive Ceremonies ever witnessed in the Province of New-Brunswick. But as we, in reporting these proceedings believe that we should not be justified in keeping the minds of our readers in suspense, regarding the highly momentous matters which it is now our most gratifying duty to lay before them, an instant longer than the indispensable preliminary observations require: we will now in the first place, proceed, in as brief a manner as possible, to state the introductory circumstances of a Ceremony, which has so justly excited, we believe, the most intense interest throughout the Province.

The spacious Hall of this noble Edifice having been previously fitted up in a manner appropriate to the occasion, was, soon after the appointed time, filled by the numerous and respectable individuals who had assembled to witness the Ceremony.

The Rev. JAMES SOMERVILLE, L. L. D., accompanied by the Rev. ABRAHAM WOOD, A. M., the Rev. GEORGE M'CAULEY, A. M., the Rev. GEORGE COWELL, A. M.—followed by the STUDENTS of the College: all in their appropriate robes; first entered the Hall and passed over to the left hand side of the Chancellor's Chair. The MEMBERS of the HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY soon after followed, and seated themselves on the left hand side. Next came the MEMBERS of His Majesty's COUNCIL, who took their seats on the right hand side. The Ladies were accommodated with seats near the Chancellor's Chair.

The Case containing the ROYAL CHARTER being placed upon the Table in front of the Chancellor's Chair, and all things in readiness: His Excellency the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, attended by his SUITE, was ushered in at the lower end of the Hall: and after a pause of a few seconds, during which His Excellency bowed to the assembled Body, and to the different branches of the Legislature, His Excellency passed onwards, and seated himself in a chair placed by the side of that intended for the Chancellor.

Profound silence prevailed.

Every mind present must have been sensibly touched at the interesting scene.

Every eye was anxiously bent upon that illustrious person, who was now about to confirm to the rising and valuable Colony of New-Brunswick, the possession of a lasting Monument of the Paternal Regard and Benevolence of the most enlightened Monarch of the age; of a Sovereign, truly worthy of the affectionate loyalty of His Subjects; of a Prince, whose Diadem is adorned with the most costly, durable, and precious gems—the heart-felt love and veneration of a free and enlightened people.

After a pause of a few moments, His Excellency rose, and addressing the audience, said:

This good and sufficient Building having been erected for the establishment of a College, the object of this Meeting is,—to present, and to call into operation, a Royal Charter, which His Majesty has been pleased to grant for establishing a College in this

Province, by the style of King's College, New-Brunswick.

Hereupon, His Excellency having again sat down, the Rev. Dr. Somerville addressed the audience to the following effect:

It is to be hoped, that in the history of New-Brunswick, this day will form an important era. The purport of this Meeting has already been explained by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, but from the Office I have lately held in the College, and in consequence of special request; I deem it proper to make a few remarks.

The momentous concerns of Education, have, with a most commendable and liberal spirit, engaged the attention, both of the Executive Government and Legislature of the Province, from very nearly the time that New-Brunswick was made a separate Colony. As early as the year 1800, a Provincial Charter was obtained, for the establishment of a College at Fredericton, for the instruction of youth in the liberal Arts and Sciences; with a power of conferring Degrees in the different Faculties; and with a very liberal Endowment, considering the then state of the Province, the many difficulties which the first Settlers had to surmount, and the great privations to which they had to submit. For a good many years the circumstances of the Country were such, that this Charter could not be acted upon in its full extent; and the Establishment was necessarily confined to an English and Grammar School. In the year 1823, however, it was deemed expedient to organize the College; and to put it into effectual operation. For that purpose a President was appointed: and a Code of Statutes framed and ordained by the Governor and Trustees, for regulating the discipline and internal economy of the Institution.

For very obvious reasons I decline to enter into any detail of how the duties have been performed as far as I am personally concerned, since the time that the College went into operation. But there is a justice due to others, which I am called upon to discharge:—And that is, that during the time that I have been President, there have been connected with the Establishment, an English and Grammar School, of distinguished excellence. To the Instructors in both of which I think the community are under peculiar obligations, for the important benefits which the youth have derived from their care, tuition, and exemplary conduct. The Provincial Charter was found to be so defective, and so inadequate to the purposes for which it was intended, that in the month of March, 1823, the Governor and Trustees obtained an Act of the Assembly, to enable them to make a conditional surrender of the Provincial Charter, into the hands of His Majesty, and praying to Him to grant them a new one.—Which Act His Majesty ratified and confirmed the 18th of November in the same year. And His Majesty was graciously pleased to grant a new Charter, dated December 15, 1826.—Which Charter is now to go into operation upon the surrender of the old one.

The learned Doctor having concluded—George Frederick Street, Esquire (in the capacity, we presume, of Secretary elect to the Institution) read the following Extracts from the Royal Charter:—

GEORGE the FOURTH, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

To all to whom these presents shall come,

Greeting:

Whereas the Establishment of a College within our Province of New-Brunswick, in North America, for the Education of Youth in the principles of the Christian Religion, and for their instruction in the various branches of Science and Literature which are taught at our Universities in this Kingdom, would greatly conduce to the welfare of our said Province: And whereas humble application hath been made to us by many of our loving subjects in our said Province, that we should be pleased to grant our Royal Charter for the more perfect establishment of a College therein, and for incorporating the Members thereof for the purposes aforesaid: Now know ye that we, having taken the premises into our Royal consideration, and duly weighing the great utility and importance of such an Institution, have of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, ordained and granted, and do by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors,

ordain and grant, that there shall be established at, or near our Town of Fredericton, in our said Province of New-Brunswick, from this time one College with the style and privileges of an University, as hereinafter directed, for the Education and Instruction of Youth and Students in Arts and Faculties, to continue forever, to be called KING'S COLLEGE. And We do hereby declare and grant that our trusty and well beloved, the Right Reverend Father in God, John, Bishop of the Diocese of Nova-Scotia, or the Bishop for the time being, of the Diocese in which the said Town of Fredericton may be situate in any future division or alteration of the said Diocese of Nova-Scotia, shall for us, and on our behalf be the Visitor of the said College, and that our trusty and well beloved Sir Howard Douglas, Baronet, our Lieutenant-Governor of our said Province, or the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or other person administering the Government of our said Province for the time being, shall be the Chancellor of our said College: And We do hereby declare, ordain, and grant, that there shall at all times be one President of our said College, who shall be a Clergyman in Holy Orders of the United Church of England and Ireland, and that there shall be such and so many Professors in different Arts and Faculties within our said College, as from time to time shall be deemed necessary or expedient, and as shall be appointed by us, or by the said Chancellor of our said College on our behalf and during our pleasure. And We do hereby grant and ordain that the Reverend George Best, Master of Arts, Archdeacon of our said Province of New-Brunswick, shall be the first President of our said College, and the Archdeacon of our said Province for the time being shall, by virtue of such his office, be at all times the President of the College. And We do hereby, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, Will, Ordain, and Grant, that the said Chancellor and President, and the said Professors of our said College and all persons who shall be duly matriculated into, and admitted as Scholars of our said College, and their Successors forever, shall be one distinct and separate Body politic and corporate, in deed and in name, by the name and style of "THE CHANCELLOR, PRESIDENT, AND SCHOLARS OF KING'S COLLEGE, AT FREDERICTON, IN THE PROVINCE OF NEW-BRUNSWICK."

And We do hereby declare, ordain, and grant, that there shall be within our said College, or Corporation, a Council, to be called and known by the name of the College Council.

And whereas it is necessary to make provision for the completion and filling up of the said Council at the institution of our said College and previously to the appointment of any Professors, or the conferring of any degrees therein: Now We do further ordain and declare, that the Chancellor of our said College for the time being, shall, upon or immediately after the first institution thereof, by Warrant under his hand, nominate and appoint seven discreet and proper persons, resident within our said Province of New-Brunswick, to constitute jointly with him the said Chancellor, and the President of our said College for the time being, the first or original Council of our said College.

And We, by these presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, Will, Ordain, and Grant, that the said Council of our said College, shall have power and authority to frame and make Statutes, Rules and Ordinances, touching and concerning the good Government of the said College, and also touching and concerning any other matter or thing which to them shall seem good, fit and useful, for the well-being and advancement of our said College, and agreeable to this our Charter, and also from time to time, by any new Statutes, Rules, or Ordinances, to revoke, renew, augment, or alter, all, every, or any of the said Statutes, Rules, and Ordinances, as to them shall seem meet and expedient. Provided always, that the said Statutes, Rules, and Ordinances, or any of them, shall not be repugnant to the Laws and Statutes of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, or of our said Province of New-Brunswick, or to this our Charter.

And We do further Will, Ordain, and Grant, that the said College shall be deemed and taken to be an University, and shall have and enjoy all such, and