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## THE LIBRARY OF QUEEN'S.



"BOOK of the Beginnings" of Queen's University would be instructive and encouraging reading. In no single department did she ever begin fully equipped; every inch of the road was gained by patience and determination, every success achieved stands as the record of some courageous effort, some generous self-denial, such as must be to a great extent unknown to institutions beginning their career with an ample endowment, either from the state, or by the generosity of private individuals. The Library of Queen's has been no exception to this rule. In spite of the general scarcity of funds at her foundation it was decided to set apart \$250.00 for the Library, and this was placed at the disposal of Dr. Liddell, when he visited Scotland in 1842. The books purchased by him, and a few stray volumes from the libraries of private individuals, were all she possessed till 1844-5, when a valuable addition was received in a gift of books to the value of £61.0.0 from Mrs. McKay, of Edinburgh. From this time donations were frequently received, and an old Library catalogue of 1853, still in the Library, gives the number of books at about 2,000. A large proportion of these are theologi-

cal, with, as might be expected from a collection of books principally recruited from private libraries, many duplicates. There are for instance ten Hebrew Bibles. Eight students graduated in that year, so the allowance was not an illiberal one. Hebrew literature was probably a favourite study with the early students of Queen's.

In 1857 an important purchase was made for the Library, when after the death of Professor Malcolm Smith a large part of his library was purchased through his successor Professor Weir. This was considered a great event: it was certainly an unprecedented one.

To one accustomed to the numerous beautiful annotated editions of the classics now considered so indispensable, the supply of classical literature seems very meagre. If the intellectual capacity of Queen's students has increased in the same rate as the food supplied for its development, the money expended in books has been a splendid investment.

After the purchase of Archdeacon Stuart's house and grounds in 1854, the Library was held there until the division of the building in 1870 into dwelling houses, when it was transferred to the Arts' Building, (the present Medical College), where it