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NATURE'S SECOND THOUGHT.

When earth possessed one sex alone,
And man was lord of all, serene,
One-half life's sweetness was unknown ;
No golden link was forged between
This world of ours and the unseen ;
This golden link has stood the test
Of ages. Woman reigns supreme,
And Nature's second thought was best.

The golden link was forged, I ween,
'Twas stolen, too, from Adam's breast ;
But by these words I do not mean
That woman is a fraud at best.
She dwelt by nature next man's heart,
Since torn from thence by Heaven's decree ;
He seeks to win her back, to be
For ever his, no more to part.

FREDERIC B. HODGINS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

I. KING'S COLLEGE.

Our University is growing venerable. There are few survivors now even of those who were in their cradles when George Rex affixed the royal sign manual to its first charter. As to its history the present generation is very imperfectly informed on the subject ; and so THE VARSITY, as in duty bound, has set itself to enlighten its readers ; and with the aid of certain grave and reverend seniors, purposes to hunt up the record for their behoof.

The crest of the University is not the Lamp, with which we are all familiar, the College symbol of intellectual illumination. It is an umbrageous Maple, with the motto : *Crescit velut arbor ævo*. The supporters, we may add, are Minerva, and the Dolphin of Orion, as blazoned on the Ridgeway memorial window in Convocation Hall. If the restless spirit of everlasting change do not end in uprooting it, we see no reason why it should not fulfil its motto, under the fostering guardianship of its graduates.

But already in the first sixty years there has been more than one uprooting and transplanting of this tree of knowledge. The foundation stone of King's College was laid with wondrous clat, and much processioning ; amid ringing of bells, firing of cannon, singing of the "*Laudent omnes Deum*" &c., on the 23rd of April, 1842. It was St. George's Day ; Shakespeare's birthday ; the practical birthday, as was hoped, of a grand home of intellectual life for Upper Canada. But from the first it has been—as Sir Edmund Head designated it,—a college militant ; and in the struggle at its inception a long interval of inertia, or do-nothingism, transpired between the obtaining a charter, and this first step towards turning it to any practical account. It was in the year 1827 that a charter was granted by His Majesty George IV., for the establishment of a University at York (now Toronto), under the designation of "King's College ;" and in the following year the institution was endowed, by patent, with a portion of the lands which had previously been set apart by His Majesty George III. for educational purposes. Lord Bathurst's despatch accompanied the charter with a promised grant of £1,000 sterling per annum for the College buildings. Few incidents in the history of our

young province are more creditable than the Act of the Legislature of Upper Canada, so early as 1797, whereby King George III. was asked to set apart lands, to create the necessary fund for the establishment of Grammar Schools, "and also a College, or University, for the instruction of youth in the different branches of liberal knowledge." It is a proceeding to which Canadians will ever revert with pride. Assuredly in that first step the Loyalist Fathers of Upper Canada meant the liberal knowledge to be equally free to all.

With charter, funds, and all else at their disposal, it might have been expected that the promoters of the new College would go ahead. But the charter—in which His Gracious Majesty George IV. "of his special grace ordained that there shall be established, in the Province of Upper Canada, a College with the style and privileges of a University, to continue forever, to be called King's College"—was a somewhat peculiar document. It adapted itself to the special wants of the young western Province by ordaining "that our trusty and well-beloved, the Right Reverend Father in God, Charles James, Bishop of Quebec," shall be Visitor, and the Venerable John Strachan, D. D., Archdeacon of York, and subsequently Bishop of Toronto, President ; and his ecclesiastical successors in all time coming were to fill the same office as Heads of the College. It further provided for seven professors, who "shall be members of the Established United Church of England and Ireland, and shall, previously to their admission into the said College Council, severally sign and subscribe the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer." No wonder that the Charter proved unworkable in the youthful Province of Upper Canada, or Ontario as it is now styled.

The terms of the Charter were from the first a source of irritating controversy ; and, as stated in the official account of "The Educational System of the Province of Ontario" prepared for distribution at the recent Intercolonial Exhibition : "In consequence of a feeling of discontent, engendered by its exclusive character, the Charter was amended in 1834 ;" and some of the most objectionable denominational restrictions were abolished. Nevertheless it retained its Faculty of Divinity and other essentially Church of England features ; and all students belonging to other denominations occupied the position of dissentients, exempted from the regular requirements of the College. Bishop Bethune, in his life of his predecessor, Bishop Strachan, dwells with enthusiasm on the choral services in the College chapel, "with its plaintive tone of sacred song conducted by the rule of the ancient chaunts," where the antiphonal responses were rendered by the student choristers in their white surplices.

The inevitable fruit of such a system speedily made itself manifest. In 1828, the very year after the granting of the first Royal Charter, the Wesleyan Methodists started the movement for their Academy at Cobourg ; which by 1841 had developed into the University of Victoria College, with Rev. Dr. Ryerson for its principal. In 1835 steps were taken for establishing a Roman Catholic College at Kingston, under the name of Regiopolis College. In 1841 Queen's College was founded there, with its faculties of Arts and Theology, in connection with the Presbyterian Church ; and so the whole higher education of Canada was thus decreed to be denominational in its character. This is the work which the friends of higher education are now striving to undo, by getting rid of divided counsels and crippled efforts at feebly and imperfectly doing with four or five poorly equipped institutions, what may be thoroughly and successfully accomplished by united action.

VIDI.