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Queen's 1841 - 1911

THE MAKING OF QUEEN'S.

QUEEN'S awoke one morning and found herself "national." So much of the best work of the world is done unconsciously. The men who began the College seventy years ago were not thinking so much of the future as of their own immediate need of an institution wherein religion and learning might be cultivated together; as it was expressed in the first proposal:—"Following the Universities of our native land as a model, we shall take up the pupil at the point to which the district and grammar school has conducted him and introduce him to those higher studies that may qualify him for public and professional avocations." It is a matter of history that Queen's was founded not as a denominational College but as a protest against sectarianism, which at that time had seized upon and held possession of the Provincial University. The notion of a denominational College was foreign to the minds of the fathers of Queen's. The Scottish national University hand-in-hand with the National Church was the only type they knew, and it they followed. It would have its Theological Faculty, in which the national religion would be taught, and its Arts Faculty was to be open to all. The religious test required of its teachers was in accord with the practice of the Scottish Universities at that day. The Royal Charter was granted in 1841, "For the educating of youth in the Christian religion and in Arts and Sciences." It was the nick of time. The old order was passing, bureaucracy was being displaced by responsible government, and new heart and hope animated the people. Funds were subscribed in Toronto, Kingston, Montreal and elsewhere, and work began in 1842 with ten students and two professors. Dr. Liddell, a man of ability and force, was sent from Scotland to head the infant College, and Dr. Campbell, afterwards the brilliant Principal of Aberdeen University, taught classics. In the next session came Dr. Williamson and began his fifty years of faithful and fruitful service. The struggle for life was strenuous from the first,