



THE MAIN BUILDING BEFORE THE FIRE.

dead letter, and, accordingly, steps were at once taken to organize the University by appointing a Council, and vesting in the corporation a definite land grant of 225,944 acres. Meanwhile strenuous opposition to the sectarian character of the Charter was started in the Legislative Assembly, largely at the instigation, and under the direction, of Marshall Spring Bidwell and John Ralph. For ten years the controversy raged with extreme bitterness, the Colonial Secretary and Lieutenant-Governor making sure that no steps should be taken to put the Charter in operation until some agreement was arrived at between the Legislative Assembly, which favored a non-sectarian University, and the Legislative Council, which stood by the proposed Anglican College. An important landmark in the history of the institution is the Act passed in 1837, to amend and secularize the Charter, by making it no longer necessary that any person connected with the administration of the institution should hold any ecclesiastical office, or even be "a member of the Church of England"; but the faculty of Divinity was retained, and, as a matter of fact, though no longer as a matter of course, the control of the corporation remained in the hands of representatives of the Anglican Church.

The Rebellion of 1837, and the proceedings connected with the reunion of

Upper and Lower Canada in 1841, occupied public attention for some years, to the exclusion of educational matters, but when Sir Charles Bagot became Governor-General of Canada and *ex-officio* Chancellor of the University, he gave his sanction to the inauguration of King's College and the erection of a building in which to carry on the work which it was incorporated to perform. Lands scattered through other parts of the province were sold, and the proceeds were invested in the purchase of the lots lying between College and Bloor Streets, and extending from near St. George St. on the west, a short distance beyond the boundary of the Queen's Park on the east. The avenues to Queen and Yonge Streets were laid out, and at the head of the former, where the Parliament Building now stands, a site was selected for the proposed College building. On the 23rd of April, 1842, its corner stone was laid by Sir Charles Bagot, and eventually the east wing of the proposed edifice was completed. Owing to the passage of an Act in 1853, appropriating the same site for the erection of a Parliament Building for Canada, the College edifice was never completed, and when the Ontario Legislature authorized the erection of the present provincial building, the old College wing was taken down, and the material was utilized in the erection of its successor.