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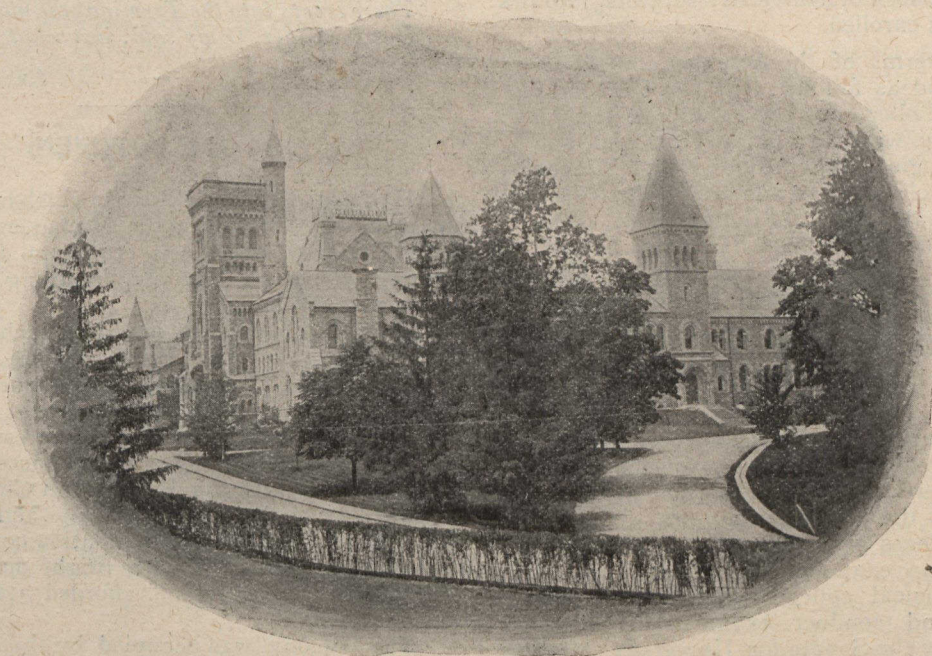
THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

BY JAMES BREBNER, B.A.

As is often the case, we know least about those things which are near at hand and touch us most intimately, so, if a stranger were to ask the average undergraduate to explain the constitution of the University, it is very doubtful whether the answer would be satisfactory to either of the parties. In attempting to reply one might point to the various buildings and the number of students in attendance, but these are only the outward and visible signs of our Alma Mater. There are other aspects, however, which

In 1837 the University was secularized to this extent that it was no longer necessary for the president to be the incumbent of an ecclesiastical office, or for any member of the College Council or any professor to be a member of the Church of England, and no religious test was required from any persons admitted or matriculated as scholars in the college. In 1843 the University was organized under the presidency of Dr. Strachan, with its Faculties of Arts, Medicine, Law and Divinity.

The secularization was completed by the University Act of 1849, when the Faculty of Divinity was abolished and the University of Toronto was created with its Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Law. The Faculties of



are most important and worthy of consideration, and in attempting to present some of these, a few facts in connection with the history of the University may make its present position more intelligible.

In 1828 George IV. granted a charter, the original of which is at present in the care of the bursar, to "one college, with the style and privileges of an university, as hereinafter directed, for the education and instruction of youths in arts and faculties, to continue for ever, to be called King's College."

This college received as endowment a grant of lands known as the "Crown Reserves," and in this way has been since its inception the University of the people of this province. Whatever the original intention was, the University was in fact at first sectarian. This feature of the Act started a very bitter controversy which lasted twenty years.

Medicine and Law were abolished, and the University underwent another change in 1853, when, following the example of the reconstructed University of London, the functions of the University were divided between the two bodies, known from that day to this as the University of Toronto and University College. The former body prescribed the curricula, conducted examinations and conferred degrees; the latter had entire control over the instruction and conduct of the students, and this state of affairs lasted until 1887.

One of the prominent features of the Act of 1853 was the affiliation to the University of Toronto of Queen's College, Victoria College, Regiopolis College and Trinity College. Although none of these institutions had either applied for, or, after the passage of the Act, had accepted this privilege, these affiliations were cancelled by the Act of 1873. The University Act of 1887, when this