

to a university are totally unchanged. They are on a solid basis, and may or may not be complied with, as my superiors may think proper, but shall certainly appear as my system to the judgment of posterity."

And again in 1796, the year of his departure from Upper Canada: "I have scarcely the smallest hope," he writes, "of this government being supported in the manner which I cannot but think proper for the national interests and commensurate with its established constitution. In particular, I have no idea that a university will be established, though I am daily confirmed in its necessity."

Nevertheless, in the following year, something practical in regard to education in Upper Canada was really done. The Hon. Peter Russell was then in power as President, or acting Lieutenant-Governor, and he received authority from the home government, to have set apart for educational purposes in Upper Canada, five hundred thousand acres of the "waste lands of the Crown," one half to be applied to the establishment of a university.

But as a good deal of time must elapse before the allotment could be made to produce funds adequate to the support of such an institution, the actual establishment of a university was to remain in abeyance for the present, and four Royal Grammar Schools were to be set up to meet the more immediate wants of the Province, at Kingston, Newark (Niagara), Cornwall, and Sandwich, respectively.

The Report to the home authorities on which the instructions sent to Mr. Russell were based, was drawn up by the Executive Council of Upper Canada assisted by the Judges and law officers of the Crown. It was signed by Chief Justice Elmsley, and as the first person is several times used therein, the document was no doubt mainly from his pen. As to the site of the future university, the Report sets forth that the town of York is entitled to it, "both as being by far the most convenient spot in the Province for all general purposes, its situation being nearly central, and, besides its accessibility by water, the proposed highway [Dundas Street] from the one end of the Province to the other, being necessarily to pass through it or near it."

After 1800, an anxious interval ensued. Progress in every direction was greatly checked by the prospect of a