

University of King's College, Windsor, N. S.

INTRODUCTION.

NONE but those who have studied the history of Collegiate Institutions during the first period of the settlement of the different provinces which now constitute the Dominion of Canada, can form an adequate conception of the delays and difficulties which beset the initiation and subsequent provision for the maintenance of King's College—the first Protestant University established in British North America.

Ontario was then a forest wilderness, Quebec a thinly settled Roman Catholic province, New Brunswick almost a *terra incognita*, Nova Scotia a strictly maritime colony with a few scattered settlements on its coast, numbering in the aggregate not more than twenty-five thousand souls.

Under these adverse circumstances the preliminary steps were taken for the foundation of a College at Windsor in the year 1768, or eight years after the conquest of Canada;* but it was not until the year 1788 that an Act of Parliament was obtained for founding, establishing, and maintaining a College in the province under the title of King's College, of Nova Scotia, and in the year 1790 the College was opened and buildings commenced.

In 1802, a Royal Charter was granted, conferring on the College all the privileges of a University, and ordaining that, “at our town of Windsor, in our said Province of Nova Scotia, there shall be established, from this time, one College, the mother of an Uni-

* *Vide* a brief account of the origin, endowment, and progress of the University of King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia, by Thomas B. Akins, D.C.L.