

THE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

[We are indebted to Mr. N. Wilson, the oldest and most respected teacher of the city, for facts concerning the early history of schools in this city.]

London has, in sixty-five years, advanced from a small trading post, called "The Forks," to a foremost place among the cities of the enterprising Province of Ontario. No city commands a larger district of fertile agricultural land; no city in America has a lower death rate, owing partly, no doubt, to her unexcelled water supply.

Amid such surroundings as these the London Collegiate Institute has grown up with its stately edifice, its excellent staff of teachers, and last, but not least, its four hundred brilliant students. It would be well just here to introduce a brief sketch of the history of the Institute.

"The first Grammar School of the London district was opened at Long Point in 1832, but was removed to London four years later, and Francis Wright was appointed master. In 1841 he was succeeded by Rev. B. Bayly, a graduate of Trinity College, from which college Mr. Wright had also graduated.

In 1865 the Grammar School united with the Public Schools, and removed to the old Central School building, Mr. Bayly acting as Principal, with Messrs. Boyle and Wilson as assistants. But the High School was destined for greater accomplishments, and in 1878 the school was opened in the new and handsome building, with the following staff of teachers:—Rev. B. Bayly, Principal; Messrs. Houston, Wilson, O'Connor, and the Misses Kessack as assistants.

Mr. Bayly died in 1879, and since that time the Rev. F. L. Checkly and Mr. Saml. Woods, M. A., have held the Principalship of the Institute.

Last year it was made evident that the accommodation afforded by the school was insufficient for the number attending, so a large addition was built, comprising, besides class rooms, a gymnasium and an assembly room, so that now the Collegiate, with its unsurpassed laboratory, is second to none in the Province.

The majority of our scholars attend our school for the purpose of obtaining a business education; but of those who prepare for a professional life, very few make a poor showing at the examinations.

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