

Historical Sketch of Queen's University.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY was established by Royal Charter in 1841 "for the education of youth in the principles of the Christian religion, and for their instruction in the various branches of science and literature." The charter also provides that "no religious test or qualification shall be required of or appointed for any persons admitted or matriculated as scholars within our said college." The members of the Presbyterian Church were its corporation, and the management of its affairs was committed to a Board of Trustees consisting of 12 ministers and 15 laymen. The ministers were elected by the Synod, the highest Church Court at that period; the laymen by the lay members of the Board from a list sent in by congregations, each congregation nominating a member every third year as eligible for the Board.

After the Disruption Queen's continued to be the possession of that portion of the Presbyterian Church which remained in connection with the Church of Scotland, commonly known as the "Kirk," while the section in sympathy with the Free Church of Scotland founded Knox College as its Theological school, afterwards brought into affiliation with the University of Toronto. For some years Queen's received assistance from the Provincial Government, the annual grant being for a time \$5,000, but in 1868 this grant was withdrawn and for the past thirty-five years no aid has been given by the Provincial Government to any university except that of Toronto. The withdrawal of this grant, which was about half its revenue, threatened Queen's with ruin, but the Church came to its help and raised an endowment of \$100,000, contributions coming from no less than 5,200 subscribers.

A few years later when the churches were negotiating for union one of their chief difficulties was the difference of opinion regarding the College question. The members of the Kirk desired that Queen's should hold in all respects the same relations to the United Church which it had held to that section in connection with the Church of Scotland, that its Trustees should continue to be appointed in the same way and that the United Church should be responsible for its control and support. A number of those, however, in the Canada Presbyterian Church were unwilling to accept this responsibility and so, rather than prevent Union, the friends of Queen's agreed to a compromise by which the United Church was relieved of the appointment of Trustees for the Arts Department, although the College was to remain in other respects in the same relation to the United Church in which it had hitherto been to the Kirk. The words of the Act (Ont. 38 Vic; Cap. 75) on this point are "As soon as the said union takes place the Corporation of Knox College shall stand in the same relation to the Presbyterian Church of Canada in which it now stands