

patriotic co-operation for the common good of the country. Under its new constitution Victoria College was opened by Rev. Dr. Ryerson as president on October 21st, 1841. At the close of his address on this occasion Dr. Ryerson spoke as follows, and the words are the keynote to the grand work of his after life. From this date onward his work was in the educational interest of his native country: "His late most gracious Majesty William IV., of precious memory, first invested this institution in 1836 with a corporate charter as an academy—the first institution of the kind established by royal charter, unconnected with the Church of England, throughout the British colonies. It is a cause of renewed satisfaction and congratulation that, after five years' operation as an academy, it has been incorporated as a college, and financially assisted by the unanimous vote of both branches of the Provincial Legislature, sanctioned with more than an official cordiality in her Majesty's name by the late lamented Lord Sydenham, one of whose last messages to the Legislative Assembly was a recommendation to grant £500 as an aid to Victoria College. We have buoyant hopes for our country when our rulers and legislators direct their earliest and most liberal attention to its literary institutions. A foundation for a common school system in this Province has been laid by the legislature, which will, I believe, at no distant day exceed in efficiency any yet established on the American continent. And I have reason to believe that the intention of the Government is earnestly directed to make permanent provision for the support of colleges also, that they may be rendered efficient in their operations and accessible to as large a number of the enterprising youth of our country as possible."

It is one of the glories of Victoria that Dr. Ryerson was her first president. The mightiest educational force is in the contact of keen, fresh young minds with strong, mature, cultured minds. Converse with great men is an especial privilege. Dr. Ryerson soon gathered about him some of the choicest young minds of the country. On the staff were three strong men as associates, Hurlburt, VanNorman and Kingston. Among his earliest students were Nelles, Ormiston, Hodgins, McDougall and Springer, each one afterwards eminent in his country's history. In his work the varied culture of the man and his grand mental powers were but part of his equipments for this work. The man was full of personal magnetism. His hold upon the hearts of his students appears from the following words of Dr. Ormiston: "In the autumn of 1843 I went to Victoria College doubting much whether I was prepared to matriculate as a freshman. Though my attainments in some of the subjects prescribed for examination were far in advance of the requirements, I knew in other subjects I was sadly deficient. On the evening of my arrival, while my mind was burdened with the importance of the step I had taken, and by no means free from anxiety about the issue, Dr. Ryerson, at that time principal of the college, visited me in my room. I shall never forget that interview. He took me by the hand, and few men could express as much by a mere hand-shake as he. It was a welcome, an encouragement, an inspiration, and an earnest of future fellowship and friendship. It lessened the timid awe I naturally felt toward one in so elevated a position. I had never before seen a principal of a college. It dissipated all boyish awkwardness and awakened filial confidence. He spoke of Scotland, my native land, and of her noble sons,