

"LET KNOWLEDGE CROW FROM MORE TO MORE"

Our Universities and Colleges

"THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

L.—VICTORIA UNIVERSITY,
TORONTO.

BY THE EDITOR.

IN view of the fact that the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund is expected to bring greatly needed financial assistance to our colleges, this paper proposes to give its readers some idea of the work being done by these institutions, with the view of developing an intelligent interest in them.

Naturally our attention is first directed to Victoria University, the oldest educational institution of the kind in the Province of Ontario. It was founded in 1836 in the town of Cobourg, with Rev. Matthew Richey as principal, and was at first known as Upper Canada Academy. To provide the necessary funds for the building and to maintain the work was a great undertaking for the few Methodists of that time. It was a larger task for them to raise the \$50,000 required at the outset, than it will be for the large and wealthy Methodist Church of to-day to contribute a million dollars. Recognizing the importance of education to the future prosperity of the Church, both ministers and laymen took hold of the enterprise enthusiastically, and gave liberally of their means to sustain it.

Rev. Egerton Ryerson was sent to England to solicit help from friends there. An extract from a letter written to Dr. Ryerson during his absence by the chairman of the board engaged in erecting the building, will show how intensely in earnest these men were. He said:—"You must stay in England until the money is got. Use every effort. Harden your face to flint, and give eloquence to your tongue. This is your calling; excel in it. Be not discouraged with a dozen refusals in succession. The

money must be had, and it must be begged. My dear brother, work for your life, and I pray God to give you success. Do not borrow, if possible. Beg, beg, beg it all. It must be done."

After five years of academic work, the academy was endowed with university powers, and Rev. Egerton Ryerson, D.D., was appointed as its first principal. When, two or three years later, Dr. Ryerson was called to the important and honorable position of Chief Superintendent of Education for Ontario, his place in Victoria was taken by Rev. Dr. Alex. McNab, who had charge for four years.

by unusual originality of thought. For thirty-seven years he gave his best energies to building up Victoria, and his name is held in veneration by the hundreds of graduates who went out from her halls.

Upon the death of Dr. Nelles in 1887, Rev. Dr. Burwash was called to the presidency, which he still occupies. He is a man of wide knowledge and rare literary culture. With the students he is very popular, and is regarded with the greatest respect by all who know him.

In 1886 it was decided by the General Conference to enter the Federation of Colleges, and Victoria was shortly afterwards removed to Toronto. About this time Rev. Dr. Potts was called from the pastorate, to assume the duties of

General Secretary of Education. At that date the income of the Educational Society had never reached \$12,000. It is more than \$23,000 now. Largely through Dr. Potts' influence, the endowment was greatly strengthened, and interest in our educational work has been sustained by his eloquent advocacy of

the cause during the past twelve years.

A splendid building costing a quarter of a million dollars, was erected on a prominent site in Queen's Park, and through the munificence of Wm. Gooderham, Hon. John Macdonald, H. A. Massey, and others, there is not a dollar of debt on it. It is solidly built of stone, and in the opinion of many, is the handsomest college building in Canada. The front door opens upon a spacious hall, which is used for the annual banquet and for the conversation. To the right is the president's office, and opening off the main hall are several class rooms, as well as the college library. On the second floor is located the beautiful chapel where devotional exercises are conducted every morning. Alumni Hall,



"OLD VIC." COBOURG.

He was followed by Rev. S. S. Nelles, D.D., LL.D., who was then a young man. The outlook was not a rosy one, for the treasury was empty, and there was not a dollar of endowment. The new principal, however, took hold of his work with great energy, and a movement was inaugurated to secure an endowment.

If ever an appointment was appropriate, it was the election of Dr. Nelles to be the head of Victoria College. He had great natural ability and was marvelously versatile. As a preacher he was brilliant, and his sermons were marked