



# JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

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## EDUCATION.

### THE COLLEGES OF CANADA.

#### I.

#### The Laval University.

(Continued from our last.)

The value of these estates has of course been steadily increasing; but the extensive improvements made by the seminary have kept pace with that increase, until the institution has attained its present state of prosperity and, that the humble school, has become a great University.

It was not until after the conquest that the course of studies was fairly completed. The jesuits college having been suppressed, the seminary had then to provide for a complete secular education, in addition to the ecclesiastical training for which it had been originally, more especially intended.

Before that time however there had been two classes of philosophy, (which in our colleges comprise logic, metaphysics, ethics the higher branches of mathematics, natural philosophy and natural history) a class of rhetoric, a class of

*belles-lettres*, four classes of latin and an elementary school. The higher classes were kept alternately every two years. The length of the course of studies was between five and seven years. At the outset some of the pupils were young men who were perfecting the studies they had began in France: some were merchants clerks, tradesmen and even soldiers.

There were brothers, or a kind of *tiers-ordre*, as is not uncommon in religious communities. They were tradesmen, who practised and taught some of the useful trades, so much required in a new colony, to those young men, who had no intention of completing their studies for the church or for the learned professions. Some of them became tailors, carpenters, architects, locksmiths, joiner or sculptors. The latter occupation was naturally a favorite one with the brothers, who in this manner were enabled to decorate the interior of most of the churches and chapels that were then springing up in the town and in the neighbouring settlements. Some of their sculptures are indeed superior to others of a more recent date, now seen in our churches.

The course of studies was interrupted by the siege of 1759. The cathedral was burnt by the shells on the night of the 22nd of July and although the seminary escaped burning it was left by the shells and the cannon balls, in a condition scarcely more tenable. Only two rooms were habitable, says the author of a notice from which we borrow these details.

Mr. Pressard, the superior, and Mr. Gravé, followed Mgr. de Pontbriand, the bishop, to Montreal, and subsequently, the death of that prelate, the famine, the want of pecuniary resources and the other consequences of that disastrous war which had only then terminated, caused the dispersion of the pupils and the closing of the establishment. Six years elapsed before the readmission of the boarders. Michel de Sallaberry the uncle of the hero of Chateauguay is the first who appears on the new list.

At the opening of the siege, the students of the seminary