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THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

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ONE of the favorite ideas of John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieut.-Governor of Upper Canada, was the establishment of a "College of a higher class," which would "give a tone of principle and manners that would be of infinite support to Government." He feared that, "owing to the cheapness of education in the United States, the gentlemen of Upper Canada would send their children there, which would tend to pervert their English principles." Just before the close of his *régime* in 1796, he urged the Colonial Secretary to have set apart, out of the Crown reserves of public lands, enough to erect and endow a University, "from which, more than any other source or circumstance whatever, a grateful attachment to His Majesty, morality and religion, would be fostered and take root throughout the whole Province."

His advice was taken shortly after his retirement from office. An address to George III. by both Houses of the Parliament of Upper Canada was the immediate occasion of the appropriation of half a million acres of land for the establishment and maintenance of four public schools and the proposed University. To this day the endowment of the University of Toronto rests on this land grant of 1798.

It is unnecessary, and it would be tedious, to narrate with any minuteness of detail the efforts made during the early years of the present century to realize the

noble ideal which Governor Simcoe had cherished and promulgated. The contemplated schools were established, but the University remained in abeyance until 1827, in which year a Royal Charter of Incorporation was granted to it by the name and style of "The Chancellor, President and Scholars of King's College, at York, in the Province of Upper Canada." The first Chancellor was the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Peregrine Maitland; the first President was the Rev. John Strachan, D.D., afterwards the first Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto. Having been mainly instrumental in securing the Charter of the University, Dr. Strachan, quite naturally, saw to it that the provisions were satisfactory to his Church. By its terms the Bishop of the Diocese was made *ex-officio* Visitor of King's College; the Archdeacon of York was made *ex-officio* its President; each of the seven Professors who were to be members of its Council was required to be also a member of the "Established United Church of England and Ireland, and, before his admission into the College, to sign and subscribe to the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion as declared and set forth in the Book of Common Prayer." Provision was made for the recognition of Divinity as one of the teaching faculties, the "declarations and subscriptions" required for a degree therein being the same as those required for any degree of Divinity in the University of Oxford.

It was not in Dr. Strachan's energetic nature to allow this Charter to remain a