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## \* The Seminary Bema \*

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On the evening of February 14th, Toronto University was destroyed by fire. Preparations had been made for the annual conversazione, and just before the guests began to arrive at 7 o'clock, the fire broke out. The building not being supplied with a sufficient number of gas jets to light it on special occasions, lamps were used. Two men were carrying upstairs a rack in which were half a dozen lighted lamps, when the man at the lower end became frightened that they might fall, and dropped his end. The oil quickly spread over the steps and in a short time the building was in flames. The library, valued at \$100,000, and the museum, with its valuable specimens and curiosities, were all destroyed.

The *Argosy* says: "The University was originally called King's College. It was founded by a royal charter from George IV. in 1827. During the ensuing year it received, as an endowment, a portion of land set apart for educational purposes by George III. The Royal Charter has been modified to some degree by various acts passed by the Legislatures of Upper Canada and Ontario. In 1853, an act was passed in which the determination of all requirements for degrees, the appointing of examiners, and conferring of degrees was assigned to it. By an act in 1837, the University was recognized with faculties of Arts, Medicine, and Law. The building lately destroyed was built in 1860, under the presidency of Sir Daniel Wilson. W. G. Storm was the architect."

In the burning of Toronto University, that city has sustained a loss estimated at over \$500,000. This insti-

tution has for many years ranked as one of the higher seats of learning in the Dominion, and the loss of such a building and furnishings, by marked carelessness, should be a warning to those who have charge of the lighting of similar institutions.

THE Winter Term is now drawing to a close, and the Terminal Examinations are near at hand, in fact, have in some branches already been held. Those who have been up for trial and have run the gauntlet all right so far, are filled with feelings of relief and gladness, and are now ready to devote all their energies to preparing for what is yet to come. Those whose trials are still all before them, are oppressed with a sense of anxiety and dread—a sense of uncertainty and doubt—which keeps their nerves upon the strain, and will hold them in a state of dreary suspense until the end.

But when it is finally made known who have, and who have not withstood the test, the reaction will come. The successful ones will be filled with joy; the unsuccessful, with regret. For the former there spreads out a future of hope and brightness—hope of progress towards the end for which they are working—and bright prospects for the life that they have chosen. For the latter all is discouraging; they have before them the dreary prospect of a mere repetition of the last term's work, beside having a whole term counted as *almost* lost. We say *almost* lost because it will not be quite all loss, even though it be the worst of failure. If nothing else, experience has been gained, and experience to the wise is inestimably valuable. If mindful of this fact, they will find that, though missing much, they have still gained much. But incomparably more than this will be the gain of those who have been so fortunate as to pass their examinations in a successful manner. These will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have been rewarded for all their work of training and hard study, and now can take a new start, with better opportunities than ever before, for the acquirement of the knowledge which they seek. We have assumed that some will fail, as is only reasonable to expect in a school as large as this, but we sincerely hope that such will not be the case; and we believe that if all will only give themselves to their work with earnest endeavour and attention, they will be enabled to secure a fair degree of success. Therefore, we urge all to do the best they can, that they may gain the greater satisfaction.