

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

BISHOP'S COLLEGE was incorporated by an Act of the Provincial Legislature, bearing date the 9th of December, 1843, and was by a Royal Charter, dated January 28, 1853, erected into a University.

The design of its establishment was twofold : first, to provide the Church of England in Lower Canada, with a suitable place for educating her ministry ; and, secondly, to offer to the country at large the blessing of a sound and liberal education upon reasonable terms. The accomplishment of the first of these two objects involved the provision of such machinery, that, when that was adequately attained, a trifling addition only seemed requisite in order to secure the second.

The necessity for such a place of education to supply the wants of the Church was so evident, that propositions were made to the Bishop of Quebec for the attainment of this object by two Clergymen of the Church of England, (singularly enough on the very same day, and containing the same general outline of plan,) who, it is believed, were unknown to each other further than by name, and, at any rate, acted entirely without concert or even knowledge of each other's movements. Some steps had already been taken in this direction, before the foundations even of the College were laid, and several theological pupils placed under the care of the Rev. S. S. Wood, M. A., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, at Three Rivers, who afterwards formed the nucleus of the College.

In a general point of view, the importance of such an Institution was evident to all persons who reflected seriously upon the educational state and prospects of the community, with the belief—a belief which appeals to history for confirmation—that education like other movements must commence at, and spread from centres. Efficient Educational Institutions of the most ordinary character imply efficient Superior Institutions.