

# QUEEN'S COLLEGE \* JOURNAL.

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## QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL

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QUEEN'S has celebrated her first jubilee. The highest dignity of the State and the representative men of the country took part in the ceremonies, and graduates from near and far swelled the enthusiasm to the brim. The celebration marks an epoch in her history. It is an event which sees the close of a long struggle for existence, an existence endangered by inadequate endowment, by internal dissension, and by absorption threatened from without, and which also sees Queen's emerging from the struggle with strength, her friends truer and more numerous than ever before, harmony and concord existing on every hand, and her life effectually guarded from the chilling breath of penury. With such a history as the past fifty years show, with true friends who stood shoulder to shoulder in her support when her life was at its lowest ebb and her survival seemed almost hopeless, Queen's cannot stand still, but must go on to the realization of the bright and hopeful future which now opens up before her. Possessing the fundamental principle of organic life and growth—a governing body which, uninfluenced by party, or faction, or sect, looks only to the highest interests of the university and of the nation—with the best staff of professors in Canada and with the number of her students steadily increasing, she is becoming more and more a powerful factor in moulding Canadian life and thought. Though rocked at her birth by the Presbyterian Church, her doors from the first were thrown open to all classes and sects. Her aim was then, as it is now, to be a thoroughly national institution and to foster a spirit of loyalty to Canada. Though claiming the distinction of having taken the first step in many educational reforms, Queen's does not regard herself as a rival to other seats of learning, but to all sister institutions she holds out the hand of friendship and co-operation, recognizing that there is room for all, and that the highest interests of

Canada demand the combined efforts of all. Realizing that the university, as the repository of the highest thought and culture, is constantly sending forth influences which mould to a great extent national life and thought, and which react upon her own life, Queen's keeps constantly before her the aim implied in the inscription on her coat of arms—*Sapientia et Doctrina Stabilitas.*

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The celebration was a success without spot or flaw, from the meeting of the students in Convocation Hall to hear Dr. Bell, on the afternoon of Sunday, December 15, to the cheers with which the banquet in the City Hall ended, a little before midnight on the 18th. The city lights were put out promptly, as usual, and some of the guests in consequence had to wander far and wide before finding their quarters, but this only served as an additional proof to them of Kingston's suitability as the home of a university. No one was abroad but themselves. Order reigned in Warsaw. But the next time those parties dine out in Kingston they will in all probability provide themselves with lanterns.

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The most remarkable thing about the jubilee was its complete success, notwithstanding the short notice given that a celebration was intended. At a session of the University Council in November it was pointed out that the first public meeting to take practical steps to establish the University was held in St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, on the 18th of December, 1839. A committee was appointed to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the occasion. All that was contemplated was a thanksgiving service in St. Andrew's Church, should the new edifice be completed, or in some church like Sydenham Street Methodist, which the managers were kindly willing to place at the disposal of the authorities for the occasion. On considering the matter, the committee came to the conclusion that the day in question was the most fitting for celebrating the semi-centennial of the University. They had to choose between a variety of dates, any one of which had a certain appropriateness. On the 20th of July, 1839, the commission of Synod decided that there had been delays enough, and more than enough, and that a University must be established forthwith, open to all without restriction, to be designated the "Scottish Presbyterian College." On the 9th of October of the same year the commission met in Hamilton and took further steps, and in particular resolved to appeal to the Church and the community at large for subscriptions. Kingston was selected as the site of the institution. On the 5th of December the Moderator of the Synod issued the appeal. The first public meeting in response to it was the one in Kingston on the 18th December. In the