

MEMOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE, TORONTO.

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ALMOST from the first moment of the permanent acquisition of Canada by Great Britain, visions of Colleges and Universities to be in due time established therein, modelled after patterns in the British Isles, began to loom up in the minds of the contemplative and far-seeing. Thus we have a versifier in Oxford, in 1760, forecasting the future in the following manner :—

“The time may come when Peace,
Diffusing wide her blessings, on thy banks,
Romantic Erie, or Ontario's meads,
Where nature revels most, may build a Fane
To Science sacred ; snatch the murderous knife
From the grim savage, tame his stubborn heart
With arts and manners mild, and gently bind
In true Religion's golden bands, the states
Of lawless, hapless wanderers. There may rise
Another Oxford on the Atlantic shores,
Still fond, a thousand ages hence, to chant
Some future hero born of Brunswick's line.”

These are sentiments occurring in a kind of official threnody on the death of George II. Hence the sudden allusion to “Brunswick's line.” The apostrophe to “romantic Erie,” and reference to “Ontario's meads,” show, in all probability, that the writer had been reading the letters of Charlevoix ; while the expected collateral effect of a “fane sacred to Science” on the surrounding Indian population may have been suggested by certain well-known day dreams of Bishop Berkeley. Some eighty years or more, however, were to elapse before an institution of the kind contemplated was to come into existence within the territory just acquired by Great Britain.

Soon after the war which led to the independence of the United States of North America, many families of great respectability had taken refuge, as is well known, in Canada, so as to enjoy the satisfaction of being still under British rule. But the heads of these fugitive households soon began to feel alarm at the entire absence of schools and seminaries of higher education, for the training of their growing sons, in the region which was now to be their home ; institutions