

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE

Upper Canada College is the oldest residential school for boys to the west of Montreal, having been founded by Sir John Colborne, first Lord Seaton, in 1829. In the Maritime Provinces it is surpassed in age by King's College School, Windsor, N. S., which dates back to 1788, its founder having been the Right Reverend Charles Inglis, U.E.L., first Bishop of Nova Scotia. In the Province of Quebec there is a still older foundation, the *Séminaire de Québec*, which goes back to the 17th century.

All three are alike in having had a close connection with the University situated in the town in which they themselves are respectively located. Out of the *Séminaire* grew Laval, the oldest collegiate institution in the King's Overseas Dominions. From the Collegiate School at Windsor was evolved the University of King's College, which is the most ancient University for English-speaking people in any of the Colonial possessions. As is well known, Upper Canada College was, during nearly sixty years of its history, intimately associated with King's College, Toronto, and its successor, the University of Toronto.

The idea of establishing a University for Upper Canada had been entertained by General Simcoe, the first Lieutenant-Governor, but, like others of his plans for the well-being of the country, it was not carried out till many years after his death. It was only in 1827 that the Royal Charter for King's College at York was issued, but it was not till 1843 that teaching was actually begun. It is not necessary here to go into the sectarian reasons for this delay; but a sufficient one, of a very practical kind, was presented by the fact that there were not enough preparatory schools able to send up students who could profitably attend lectures. Consequently men who could afford to do so were sending their sons to England to college, and even to school. Others were sending them to Nova Scotia and to New Brunswick; others again were sending them to the United States, as witness, among other things, the replies made by Dr. Harris to the Committee on Education, printed in its first Report to "the Honourable the Commons' House of Assembly" in 1832.

In "Mrs. Simcoe's Diary," as published by Mr. John Ross Robertson, it would appear that there was some kind of school in operation at Niagara between 1792 and 1796. From the correspondence of the Reverend John Stuart, M.A., D.D., first Rector of Kingston, it is clear that he himself and, after him, a Mr. Matthew Donovan carried on a school in that town from 1785 onward. His eldest son, George Okill Stuart, also taught in Kingston, between 1795 and 1799, General Simcoe arranging for the salary on his way to Quebec to sail for home. At a very early date, quite as early as 1785, there was a master for the Mohawk Indians, at Deseronto, provided by the London Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; and there was one provided by Government for their brethren on the Grand River.