

Taylor, Rev. James Robertson and the professors. It was reported that two students of the college, Messrs. William Black and Alexander Sutherland were taking their courses successfully in Toronto university.

#### A PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY MOOTED

As the result of some previous consultation on the matter, Consul Taylor, Rev. Mr. Robertson and others, at the meeting referred to the importance of the province considering the establishment of an university. It was pointed out that St. Boniface and St. John's colleges had long been engaged in higher educational work, and now that the young Manitoba college had been incorporated and removed to Winnipeg, the prospects for advancement in higher education were good. The project of giving each of these colleges university powers was mooted, and the speakers prophesied that the generous Manitoba spirit would lead to co-operation. Whether Manitoba College originated the university idea or not, it is certain that in this and the following year (1875-'76) Governor Morris discussed it with those interested in collegiate education and took steps as we shall see for the establishment of a provincial university.

#### THE COLLEGE IN WINNIPEG.

During the first session in Winnipeg arrangements were made for obtaining a permanent abode for the college. A site of two acres was purchased where the Vulcan Iron Works now stand for the sum of \$500, and the building (plate 3) was bought from Mr. W. G. Fonseca at a cost of \$4,000. This, now called the Franklin House, may still be seen at the northwest corner of Main and Common Streets. The year of occupation of this building (1875) was that of the union of the Presbyterian churches in Canada. At the first meeting of the new body in Montreal the Assembly with enthusiasm voted the amount required for its purchase. The period of six years from 1875 to 1881 spent at this point was one of great effort on the part of both teachers and students, and a writer in "Ten years in Winnipeg" says: "The institution has become one in which the citizens of Winnipeg have reason to feel proud. It is at present (1879) in a very flourishing condition. At the close of this period the attendance of the college had increased to 60, of whom 17 were in the different university years. The library had grown to 3,000, being largely augmented by books obtained by Rev. Dr. Patterson, of Nova Scotia, on a visit to Britain. The college has already taken hold upon the sympathies of a wide circle of friends in Manitoba.

#### THE UNIVERSITY FORMED.

Governor Morris had a great desire to mark his governorship by legislation for higher education. No formal conferences were held with the existing educational bodies, but means were taken to ascertain the views of some of those interested in education. Friends of Manitoba College had already, as we have seen, expressed their views on the matter. From certain correspondence laid before the

university early in 1890, it appears that the governor conferred with the Bishop of Rupert's Land. Archbishop Tache also states that Governor Morris urged upon him the advisability of joining with the two other colleges to secure a provincial university in Manitoba. At first the archbishop declined, but was at length induced to allow St. Boniface College to join the university about to be created. Accordingly in 1877 Hon. Joseph Royal introduced a bill in the legislative assembly to establish the university of Manitoba. Thus was begun very quietly and unostentatiously an institution which has greatly advanced higher education in the province, and at the same time benefited the colleges. Most of those who assented to the legislation thought the new creation only likely to be a provincial university on paper, and its subsequent success has been a great surprise even to its most ardent promoters.

#### MAY THE UNIVERSITY TEACH?

A most important question, depending somewhat on individual recollection has been raised in connection with the desire to make ours a teaching university. The words in section XI. of the University Act, "There shall be no professorship or other teachership at present in the University," have been the subject of much controversy, especially the phrase "at present." There is a dispute as to the accuracy of the words of the bill as passed. Archbishop Tache claims that he would not have permitted St. Boniface college to have entered the university had teaching in Manitoba university been contemplated; while the recollection of others is that the words "at present" were a part of the bill. The archbishop states that he was informed that "The bill was discussed and adopted at the meetings of the representatives of the three colleges." This, the Bishop of Rupert's Land has said, "did not take place at St. John's; and we are quite clear also that Manitoba college never discussed it. Hon. Mr. Royal, in a letter dated November, 1889, to Archbishop Tache says: 'I remember that I consulted Your Grace upon this matter, and I arranged to have several conversations with His Lordship of Rupert's Land. I afterwards submitted the translation in English to the Lieutenant Governor, which was slightly modified after some discussion with both Your Grace and the Bishop of Rupert's Land. I finally introduced the bill in the Legislative Assembly during the session of 1877. I cannot now remember whether it was after the introduction of the measure in the Assembly that I received the visit of Rev. Dr. Bryce and Mr. Biggs on behalf of Manitoba college, and that the views of these gentlemen were submitted to the executive council. Be that as it may I am most positive in stating that to my knowledge it was never understood at that time by any one interested in the passage of the measure that the university was ever to become, at any period of its existence, a teaching body.' Now the recollections of most of those strongly interested in the university is quite otherwise. The Bishop of Rupert's Land has from the first, again and