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IT is well-known that Queen's owes its
existence to the fact that the University
at Toronto was from the year 1828, when it
was originally established, wholly in the
hands of one Church, and that it was felt by
the most enlightened friends of education
that there should be an institution in the
Province open on equal terms to all the
youth of the country. The Synod of the
Church of Scotland and the Wesleyan
Methodist Church took the matter in hand,
and the result was the establishment of
Queen's and Victoria Universities. A Royal
charter was issued in 1841, incorporating
Queen's College "with the style and privi-
leges of a University." In the first session,
1841-2, Queen's had eleven regular students,
two of these being our present Registrar and

Rev. Dr. Bain. Up to this time the Univer-
sity at Toronto existed only on paper, but
in June 1843, it was opened under the style
and title of "the University of King's Col-
lege" by Bishop Strachan, its President.
Queen's made rapid progress, but in 1844
the Church that established it split into two,
and a majority of the students sympathising
with the secession, it was left in such a
weak condition that its Principal—Dr.
Liddell—resigned in 1846. That session
the students numbered only ten. In the
meantime the Provincial Government in-
troduced successive bills dealing with the
University question, but all proved abortive.
At last, in 1849, a comprehensive measure
was passed into law, by which King's College
was re-incorporated under the name of the
University of Toronto and placed under the
sole control of the Legislature and of a
Senate and officers appointed by the Gov-
ernment. Toronto University having been
thus liberalised and at the same time
secularized, Queen's was invited to fall in
and help to build up a big Provincial Uni-
versity. Dr. Machar, the acting Principal,
and Professor Romanes were appointed a
Committee to prepare a statement of the
views of the Church and of the Trustees on
the subject, and their statement was ap-
proved by the Board and ordered to be cir-
culated. It is interesting to read, after the
lapse of 37 years, the reasons that actuated
the authorities of Queen's in rejecting con-
solidation. We find that substantially they
are the same that influenced their successors
in rejecting "Confederation" in 1885, with
this difference, that the lapse of time has