

The opening ceremonies, therefore, represented much more than the mere dedication of the beautiful building, though that alone made an epoch in its history. It represented the crowning and completion of many years of anxiety and labour, from the year 1841, when Queen's University was first founded by a few ministers and laymen of the then Church of Scotland in Canada.

At that time the facilities for higher and even for secondary education in Canada were miserably insufficient, the only institution for higher education in Upper Canada, the then King's College, Toronto, restricted its range to members or adherents of the Church of England. Feeling the impossibility, under such circumstances, of educating a native ministry for the Presbyterian Church, a few of her ministers and laymen resolved to found a University to which a theological school should be closely attached. The names of its founders deserve to be recorded in connection with the present stage of its history. They were:—

*Ministers—*

- Rev. Robert McGill.
- “ Alexander Gale.
- “ John Mackenzie.
- “ William Rintoul.
- “ William T. Leach.
- “ James George.
- “ John Machar.
- “ Peter Colin Campbell.
- “ John Cruikshank.
- “ Alexander Mathieson, D.D.
- “ John Cook, D.D.

*Laymen—*

- Hon. John Hamilton.
- “ James Crooks.
- “ William Morris.
- “ Archibald McLean.
- “ John McDonald.
- “ Peter McGill.
- Edward W. Thompson, Esq.
- Thomas McKay, Esq.
- James Morris, Esq.
- John Ewart, Esq.
- John Steele, Esq.
- John Mowat, Esq.
- Alexander Pringle, Esq.
- John Munn, Esq.
- John Strang, Esq.

Only two of these now survive to witness its present prosperity. A Royal Charter having been secured, the late Rev. Dr. Liddell was appointed Principal by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, a Classical Professor was found in the late accomplished Principal Campbell of Aberdeen, and the present veteran Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, Dr. Williamson, was appointed to the chair, which he still worthily holds. A local habitation was found with difficulty, for Kingston, as the temporary seat of Government, was at that time crowded to its utmost capacity, and the infant University found its cradle in a humble frame building, which intending students, arriving from a distance, had much difficulty in finding out. Since then its fortunes have been full of vicissitude, and adverse events have at times almost threatened its extinction. It has had five removes and one fire. Its Government grant, long continued, on which it largely depended, was at length withdrawn, because its nominal connection with the Presbyterian Church made it a “sectarian” institution, although none could shew a better record of higher educational work done for the country at large. Its own individual endowment was wrecked in the ruin of the Commercial Bank. The double loss imperilled its very existence, but an influential and enthusiastic meeting, held in St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, which seemed inspired by the spirit of the one held in the same place when the University was first initiated, gave a new impetus to its failing fortunes. It became manifest that the University would not go down while there were stout hearts and shoulders to bear it up. Its heroic and lamented Professor Mackerras, whose noble life was lately checked in these pages, and its late Principal, Dr. Snodgrass,