

the failure of the ill-judged insurrection under Mr. MacKenzie, the party of Educational Progress, whether cognizant of his schemes or not, were in disrepute and in despair. U. C. College thus remained, for a time, almost unmolested by Parliament. [88] Another cause, however, and a much more honorable one, secured, for a short time, its freedom from molestation.

REV. DR. MCCAUL BECOMES PRINCIPAL OF U. C. COLLEGE.

Towards the beginning of 1839, [89] fortunately for U. C. College, Dr. McCaul became its Principal. He appears to have taken in, at a glance, the true position of affairs. If ever U. C. College was to be tolerated, it would only be so, by becoming what the Assembly had insisted on, when assenting to its foundation [90]—by becoming a University. But since the day that the Assembly had given a conditional assent to the establishment of U. C. College, the University Question had become wholly changed. The Episcopal Party had wisely yielded to the outside pressure; had, to a considerable degree, liberalized the Charter of King's College; [91] and the buildings for the reception of that institution would soon be in course of erection. Dr. McCaul must, therefore, have been conscious that, in any case, the functions of the Minor University [92] which had been placed under his supervision must be, at best, only provisional; must occupy for the time being, in our Educational System, the place of that more important institution whose foundation had been contemplated as far back as 1798. Notwithstanding, however, such considerations which, we say, must have occurred to his mind, the new Principal of U. C. College addressed himself to his duties with the greatest zeal and ability. The four short years of Dr. McCaul's Headmastership [93] form the only period during the thirty-eight years of this institution's existence, on which the mind can rest with any degree of satisfaction. These four years, however, soon glided by; King's College was opened in 1843; [94] the Province found a more worthy field for Dr. McCaul's abilities in the new University, and appointed him its first Vice-President. With these events, then, the mission of U. C. College, which must in any case have been regarded as vicarious, came to an end, and, with the termination of its temporary mission, its existence ought also to have terminated. Even the late Principal of U. C. College seems to have been of this opinion. Dr. McCaul is said to have represented, in the strongest manner, to the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Charles Bagot, the inexpediency, and even the *illegality* of

88 A Report of Finance Committee, adverse to Upper Canada College—Journal Assembly 1837-8, Feb. 23, 1838.

89 Dr. McCaul's duties appear to have commenced with 1839, though the appointment had been made in 1838.

90 Vide supra.

91 Speech of Rev. Dr. Strachan at opening of King's College. The good Bishop seems to have stood aghast at the extent of his own concessions to the popular feeling.

92 Dr. Strachan strongly insists on its provisional character, and calls it "The Minor College," in a document, written in 1833, and contained in the Final Report, page 170.

93 The date of Dr. McCaul's appointment to the Vice-Presidency of King's College, is Nov. 21, 1842—Final Report, page 171. Dr. McCaul's duties began in 1843.

94 June 8, 1843.