

people, that they had in every township, in the least degree populous, at least one, and, in some, two schools.

In 1797, George III. expressed his intention to establish free Grammar Schools in those districts of Upper Canada in which they were called for. In the following year the Executive Council declared that while four schools were desirable—at Kingston, Cornwall, Newark and Sandwich—two, one of which should be at Kingston, were of pressing necessity; and suggested £3,000 as the sum requisite for the building, and £180 per annum for the salaries of the master and his assistant at each of these schools. These generous intentions, however, were destined to remain unrealized by the Kingston school, since the whole of these endowments was a few years later diverted to Toronto for the erection of Upper Canada College and King's College.

There was, no doubt, a school of some sort in Kingston at this period, but that it was elementary only and not at all competent to afford anything approaching a classical education is manifest from the following facts. In the first place, a Kingston gentleman, writing in 1799 to the Rev. G. Hamilton, of Gladsmuir, says: "I shall at all times most cheerfully part with any money that I can afford for a purpose so necessary and important as the education of my children. With such qualifications as you describe I do not think Mr. Strachan's salary too high," etc. These are expressions scarcely to be used if any facilities for high school training existed in Kingston. Secondly, the same gentleman, in 1805, recommends Mr. Strachan, then resident at Cornwall, as a suitable custodian for some mechanical and scientific apparatus he hoped the Government would procure. This he was unlikely to have urged had Kingston possessed at this time any decent educational institute.

However, in 1807 an Act was passed for the endowment of Grammar Schools by an annual grant of one hundred pounds currency to each master; ten boys, appointed by the trustees, to be free scholars on the foundation. At first Kingston Grammar School seems to have enjoyed an additional grant of two hundred pounds sterling as a Royal Grammar School, which enabled the trustees to secure the services of able masters, Rev. John Wilson, possibly the first of these, resigning in 1824 to take "an official position in the University of Oxford." Mr. Wilson, at the time of his departure, estimates the school as worth £350 currency per annum, less the salary of the assistant master. He was, after a short delay, during which the trustees endeavoured without success to secure the services of an ordained clergyman, a graduate of an English University, succeeded by Mr. George Banter, who had been for seven years Mr. Wilson's assistant.

In 1829 we find that the grant of £200 sterling to Kingston as a Royal Grammar School had been withdrawn and transferred to the master of York Grammar School. The boy is said to be the father of the man, and the acute observer will perceive the family likeness of Little York to the future Toronto. Mr. Banter held the position of head master for fifteen years, and was succeeded in 1839 by the Rev. R. V. Rogers, who however only remained for eighteen months and resigned in 1841, when Stafford Lightbourne, M.A., Trin. Coll., Dublin, was appointed and held the position for eight years. Up to this time the school had been held in a frame building erected in 1792 as a Court house. Naturally, as it had never been repaired, it was then in a ruinous condition. The clapboards being rent off on the outside and the plaster knocked off on the inside, a view of the playground was open to the wan-