

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

Vol. VII.

University of Toronto, Nov. 20, 1886.

No. 5.

QUIS MULTA GRACILIS?

(Rondel.)

What graceful youth, what favoured slimness now,
Tempt in your silk-sailed barque a main *sans* ruth,
Wreathing with roses and kisses your laughing brow,
What graceful youth?

Does he, your latest verseman, rhyme, forsooth,
Of cooing doves, all on the balancing bough?
—Love is a caramel for your dainty tooth!

One little question, sweet, you might allow:
How soon do you forget . . . *petite*, the truth! . . .
Who was the last to hear your whispered vow,—
What graceful youth?

W. J. H.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

II. THE UNIVERSITY SENATE.

In the concise statement appended to the calendar of University College, after briefly noting the date and the first endowment of the University, it is added:—"Under this Royal Charter, as modified by subsequent statutes of the Legislatures of Upper Canada and of the Province of Ontario, the University of Toronto and University College, are now constituted. The University prescribes the requirements for degrees, scholarships, and prizes; appoints examiners; and confers degrees in the faculties of Law, Medicine and Arts. University College gives instruction in the departments of Arts and Science prescribed by the University for the degrees of B.A., M.A., and LL.B., and for the diploma in Civil Engineering." The name of University College dates no farther back than 1853, though the old name of King's College disappeared under the Act of 1849. So early as 1843, the Hon. Robert Baldwin introduced a bill into the Legislature "for opening the University of King's College to all classes and denominations of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects." But it was not till 1849 that it was transformed into "the University of Toronto" by an Act which changed the composition of the Senate, abolished the Faculty of Divinity, and put all classes and denominations on a perfect equality. The provisions of this Act, however, failed to satisfy the requirements and conditions aimed at; and in 1853, by a new Act, the University was set apart as a distinct corporation. The Act declares: "There shall be no professorship or other teachership in the said University, but its functions shall be limited to the examining of candidates for degrees in the several faculties." It also provides that, "in order to extend the benefits of colleges already instituted in this Province for the promotion of literature, science and art," all colleges from which, by various causes, students were to be admitted to examinations for degrees are declared to be affiliated. As to the Senate, it was to be nominated and appointed by the Governor of the Province; and so Sir Edmund Head forthwith nominated the heads of Victoria, Queen's, Trinity, Regiopolis, Knox, Bytown and Upper Canada Colleges, and the Toronto School of Medicine. Dr. McCaul represented University College; and to those were added Mr. Chancellor Blake, Mr. Justice Draper, Mr. John Langton, Dr. Hayes, the Hon. J. C. Morrison, the

Hon. Adam Ferguson, David Christie, the Rev. Adam Lillie, the Rev. Dr. Taylor, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, and the Treasurer of the Law Society, along with Mr. Cumberland, the architect, and one or two others who took no part in the work.

Such was the constitution of the Board to which the University had been reduced. It was forbidden to have any professor, or to meddle with instruction, but was given full control of all requirements for examinations and degrees, in the hope that the denominational colleges would accept the affiliation assigned to them, with a share in the control of the University, and so unite as independent colleges under its University Senate.

Meanwhile the all-important function of teaching,—without which the University is a mere Board,—was assigned to a distinct corporation, consisting of the professors, who, with the lecturers and teachers, were "constituted a collegiate institution by the name of University College." They had full power and authority given them for discipline and instruction, but neither they nor the graduates of the University had any voice in determining the requirements for degrees or considering the apportioning of subjects, authors, or text books, on which their whole work depended. This all-important duty was left to be settled by the heads of rival colleges, with such aid or check as the other nominees of the Governor-General might render. Of those, the Honourable Chancellor Blake was made Chancellor of the University, and devoted himself with unwearied fidelity to carry out to full development the system of national university education of which the Hon. Robert Baldwin and himself were consistent champions. With them must also be associated Mr. John Langton, of Trinity College, Cambridge, who both then, and subsequently as Vice-Chancellor, rendered invaluable services to the University.

Nevertheless, this University and the College could not possibly work in harmony or carry out the true purposes for which they were called into being under a Senate so constituted. The new Act proclaimed the various denominational colleges to be affiliated; and, had they actually accepted this relationship to the University and entered into confederation, all might have worked successfully. But their heads assumed the government of a university with which the colleges they represented would have nothing to do. As for the Provincial College, its old staff of Dr. McCaul, Dr. Bevan, Dr. Croft and Professor Buckland had been augmented by Professor Cherriman—previously assistant to Dr. Murray, and by Dr. Wilson, Dr. Forneri and Professors Chapman and Hincks, but, with the single exception of Dr. McCaul, no one connected with the College had a voice in settling the details on which their whole teaching depended.

The Act of 1853 refers to "the principles embodied in the charter of the University of London" as the model followed therein. In reality, Sir Francis Hincks, by whom the measure was mainly framed, was far more familiar with the Queen's University of Ireland, in one of the colleges of which his brother held the professorship of Natural History. Mr. Huxley, then a young man, and the most rising naturalist of his day, was a candidate for the new natural history chair, but it was assigned to the brother of the Minister. To the Irish university model, and not to that of London, the abortive affiliation scheme was due, which to a large extent handed over the government of the institution, at a most critical period of its history, to the heads of rival denominational colleges. That University College survived the experiment may well be regarded as a marvel.

VIDI.