

Kingston Houses the Famous Queen's University

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"Queen's" is One of the Most Progressive Homes of Learning in Canada.

Students Come From Every Part of the World to Study Here, and All Leave With a Sincere Liking for Kingston as Well as a Deep and Life-Long Loyalty to Their Alma Mater. Many Have Gone To the War, Carrying Their Loyalty Into a Wider Field.

There is a story told of an American visitor to one of the two historic English universities, which, as everyone knows, date back for a great number of centuries. The American was greatly struck by the beautiful smoothness of the lawns and asked a gardener how it was obtained. "Why," said the worthy, scratching his head, "we just rolls it and rolls it and rolls it for a thousand years or so and it comes that way."

The grounds of Kingston's University, better known as Queen's, have not yet attained the smoothness of a thousand years' rolling. The institution was founded in 1841, largely as a protest against sectarianism, and it has retained its undenominational character ever since. The ten students, with which the college started, had grown, at the beginning of the war, to nearly two thousand. The teaching staff of two is now about a hundred. As for the "small house in Colborne street in which Queen's was inaugurated," it is quite unnecessary to draw any comparisons with the present.

The new College started in a very modest way financially. Toronto subscribed \$3,000, Kingston \$8,500. In Montreal, Hamilton, and other cities, funds amounting to about \$75,000 were raised. The whole endowment was probably less than \$100,000. In 1868, when the institution was beginning to feel safe, a double disaster fell upon it. The Government grant was withdrawn and in the same year the resources of the College were still further depleted by the failure of the Commercial Bank.

The friends of higher education in Upper Canada did not desert their protege. A further \$100,000 was raised, and ten years later a similar amount. In 1887 there was a special appeal made under the title of a "Jubilee Fund," which brought the endowment to \$450,000. Buildings also were provided with splendid generosity. Kingston and its citizens gave the Theological Building, the John Carruthers Science Hall and the Kingston Building for Arts, in 1880, 1891 and 1900 respectively. The Ontario Government presented the buildings in which the School of Mining and the Medical Faculty are housed, and the students and their friends expressed their loyalty by the gift of Grant Hall and the Gymnasium.

So it has always been. The list recited above is not complete, but it shows the fine spirit that has accompanied each successive stage in the growth of Queen's. The enthusiasm of the students, past and present, has been paralleled by the generosity of their friends and of the general public all over Ontario and in other provinces as well.

Queen's is located at Kingston and the majority of its students come from Ontario, but it has many outsiders. They come from the neighboring provinces of Quebec and Manitoba, and they also come from as far east as Nova Scotia and as far west as British Columbia. Every province of Canada is represented on the college roll. Ottawa and Toronto and Montreal have each sent their quota. There are some from Newfoundland and others from New York and from Mexico, and the British West Indies. England, Ireland and Scotland are all represented. And even from such far-distant and different countries as Turkey and New South Wales there have come students to Queen's.

A recent booklet issued by the College comments favorably on a humorous saying in a students' song to the effect that "Queen's is quite unique." For the matter of that, all colleges are unique in the sense that each has its own individuality. The individuality of Queen's is an emphatic one and rightly so. It could scarcely be otherwise in view of the circumstances under which the college was founded. It represented a spirit of revolt against what was felt to be an intolerable state of affairs, what some famous writer once called "a noble discontent." A spirit of this kind persists for a long time. The bitterness has all disappeared but the spirit of independence survives to impress itself upon each generation of students.

The buildings in which Queen's is housed may lack the stateliness of some universities, Canadian or otherwise, but they are fine buildings for all that. They are peculiarly sympathetic to the spirit of Kingston, which expresses its every architectural mood in gray limestone on a foundation of intensely green grass. The district about is well wooded and the gray and the green are subtly blended just now with an exquisite shading of autumn foliage green and golden and that dull red which is the despair of painters.

Set amid such beautiful surroundings it might be expected that Queen's would be tempted to cultivate a purely local patriotism. If that illusion existed the war has broken it for all time. The drum that echoed around the British world three years ago stirred a response in many a gallant young student of Queen's. Like their contemporaries at Montreal and Toronto and other university cities they have followed the clear light of duty and patriotism. They have given their Alma Mater a new Honor Roll and have conferred the last distinction upon the college to which they belonged. It is saddening to think of such a sacrifice of fine young manhood on the very threshold of life's opportunities, but it would have been infinitely more saddening if they had not gone. Of such stuff heroes are made.