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GLIMPSES OF TORONTO

PICTURESQUE TRINITY

By THE REVEREND C. B. KENRICK, M.A.

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## INTRODUCTION

**T**HIS artistic little book, appearing at the inception of an important University movement, is an opportune invitation to all who appreciate refinement and cultivation, as well in outward surroundings as in inward character, to become more familiar with the attractions of Trinity College.

After some fifty years of history as an independent University, and a record of which it may well feel proud, Trinity College has now cast in its lot with the State University of the Province of Ontario.

The union means much for both institutions and for higher education in the Province. The University of Trinity College will be benefited by sharing in a larger life and by enjoying increased educational facilities, especially in scientific departments. The University of Toronto will gain a residential Arts College of the highest type and standing, and the Province at large will gain all that is implied in the co-operation of two institutions, which, as rivals, divided between them the best features in our University system.

The practical significance of the Federation to the youth of the Province is that they will now be able to enjoy the many advantages of Trinity's collegiate life, with its admirable residential features, while pursuing the various courses of study in the University of Toronto.

To those to whom the beauties of Trinity College and its surroundings are as yet unknown, this little book may cause some surprise. To the graduates of Trinity, of whom some fourteen hundred are resident in Ontario and a thousand more are scattered over the four quarters of the globe, it will bring back pleasing memories of student days.

EDMUND B. OSLER.

TORONTO, November, 1903.

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**T**HE City of Toronto, in its central portions, as every one knows, is flat and uninteresting, so far as the natural character of the ground on which it is built is concerned. But one only needs to explore its numerous hidden nooks and the various ravines of the Don and the Humber, ramifications of which are to be found within the limits of the city itself, to discover that it contains some of the prettiest spots which are to be found in Canada. Of these natural beauties, the best known are in the northeastern portion of the city, and are familiar to every one as the Rosedale Ravines. But there is another ravine in the west end, by no means so well known, and not so striking in its dimensions, but exceedingly beautiful nevertheless.

This ravine is the property of the University of Trinity College, and forms part of the grounds in which the University buildings stand. Till a few weeks ago an unsightly wooden fence hid to some extent the beauties of Trinity's estate from the view of the passer-by. Now, however, this eyesore is happily being replaced by a handsome structure of iron, which, with the imposing stone pillars at the main entrance, will add greatly to the dignity of the grounds, and form a fitting approach to the graceful Tudor building.

*"THE three decorated lanterns and the numerous  
pinnacles which stand out against the sky"*





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*The Buildings* Trinity's main building was erected some fifty years ago. On the secularisation of the University of Toronto,—or King's College, as it was then called,—Dr. Strachan, the first Bishop of Toronto, with untiring energy, set to work to provide for the Church in Ontario a university where instruction in the Faith could still be given to her sons. Hence Trinity came into existence as the representative Church University of the Province,—an institution whose fixed and settled policy is the teaching of secular knowledge amidst the harmonising influences of residence life under the ægis of the Christian Faith.

The building as first erected consisted only of the south front, with shallow wings at either end. Where the library now is was the chapel, a veritable "Upper Chamber" of severely simple arrangements, where many generations of students have worshipped. The first addition to the original building was the Convocation Hall, situated immediately to the north of the main entrance. This was erected in 1877. The Chapel, built at the end of the terrace which runs along the front of the College, was erected in 1883. Though its interior fittings are not yet completed, they are sufficiently advanced to show how great will be the beauty of the finished work when the plans have been fully carried out. The latest additions to the College have been the extensions to the east and west wings, which have greatly increased the accommodation in the way of students' lodgings and lecture rooms. Further additions are already planned, and, it is hoped, will be taken in hand soon. These comprise a large new building to be erected behind the present structure and forming with it a double quadrangle. In this building more lecture rooms

*"THE latest additions to the College have been  
the extensions to the East and West wings"*





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are to be provided together with accommodation for a large number of students. It will also include a new dining-hall to replace the present refectory beneath the Convocation Hall, and a larger and more convenient library instead of the room already mentioned. The northern elevation will overlook the ravine before referred to, which at this point takes a sweep to the northwest, and is here seen at its best.

The beautiful grounds of Trinity also contain St. Hilda's College, the residence for women students of the University, which is approached by a double avenue of elms and maples, the splendid oaks on the right skirting the sharp descent to the ravine.

Both Colleges are as comfortable within as they are seemly without. No one who has taken a peep into the cosy little rooms, or enjoyed the hospitality for which the students and faculty of Trinity are famous, is likely to forget the charming mantel-pieces and fireplaces, or the dainty but simple furnishings of many of these rooms. And even where the occupants' tastes are more Spartan, and the apartments lack those little refinements which appeal to so many, there is always an indescribably homelike suggestion, which faithfully reflects what is not the least of Trinity's objects,—the encouragement of that affectionate brotherhood, confidential companionship, and friendly intimacy of which Bishop Strachan spoke in his address at the opening of the College in 1852. The centre, however, of the social life of Trinity, so far as the students are concerned, is the Common Room, situated in the front of the building,—a bright and cheerful apartment, with large windows facing the south, admirably adapted to

*“THE loveliness of the grounds has much to do  
with Trinity’s attractiveness”*





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its special purpose, and provided with a piano and abundance of reading matter. The meetings of the Literary Institute, as the students' debating society is called, are held in the dining-hall. At the north end of the east wing is the gymnasium, a sort of outward and visible sign of the attention Trinity has always given to all manly athletic sports. On the other side of the building is the campus, where many a match has been hotly contested, and innumerable games of cricket and football played. On the site of the proposed new buildings are the lawn tennis courts and a hockey rink, where the students indulge in their favourite winter sport.

The more serious side of Trinity's work is attended to in the numerous lecture rooms which are to be found in different parts of the College buildings, and it need scarcely be said that side by side with the growth and improvements in the buildings there has been progress and improvement in the variety and scope of the teaching given. From the very humble beginnings of Trinity's first days the number of lecturers has been constantly added to and the courses of study widened, so that to-day a thoroughly broad and liberal education is provided, in which a considerable choice of options is offered. The fact that most of the professors are provided with rooms in the College counts for much in the matter of individual knowledge of their students and of that happy relationship between teachers and pupils which means so much alike to the efficiency and happiness of academic life. Any more extended reference to this, however, lies outside the scope of this descriptive sketch of the buildings and grounds.

*"St. Hilda's College . . . approached by a  
double avenue of elms and maples"*





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*St. Hilda's* We now come to a more particular survey of these. And the first that shall  
*College* claim our attention is St. Hilda's College.

As before stated, this is the Women's Residence of Trinity University. The lecture rooms and degrees of Trinity were thrown open to women in 1888, during the provostship of Dr. Body, to whom so much of the expansion of the University is due. The women students were first housed in a small rented house. Larger quarters, however, soon became necessary, and, after more than one move to more commodious premises, building operations became imperatively necessary, and the foundation stone of St. Hilda's College was laid by the Countess of Minto in 1899, and the building was opened at the end of the same year. The College is situated at a considerable distance from the main building, and will be found in the northwest corner of the extensive grounds. Lacking the graceful pinnacles and cupolas which lend such a charm to the main front of Trinity College, its style of architecture is severely simple, but harmonises well with that of the other buildings, and is entirely in keeping with the more modern additions to the principal structure. It provides accommodation for thirty students, besides furnishing comfortable quarters for the Lady Principal. The building also contains a well appointed drawing-room, dining-room, and chapel, and is in every way suited to its purpose as a home for the young ladies attending lectures at Trinity. A large and commodious room is set apart for the use of the undergraduates of St. Hilda's within the main building, the women students finding therein a convenient resting-place in the intervals between lectures.

*“THE Provost's Lodge, charmingly situated at the head  
of a series of terraces leading down to the ravine”*



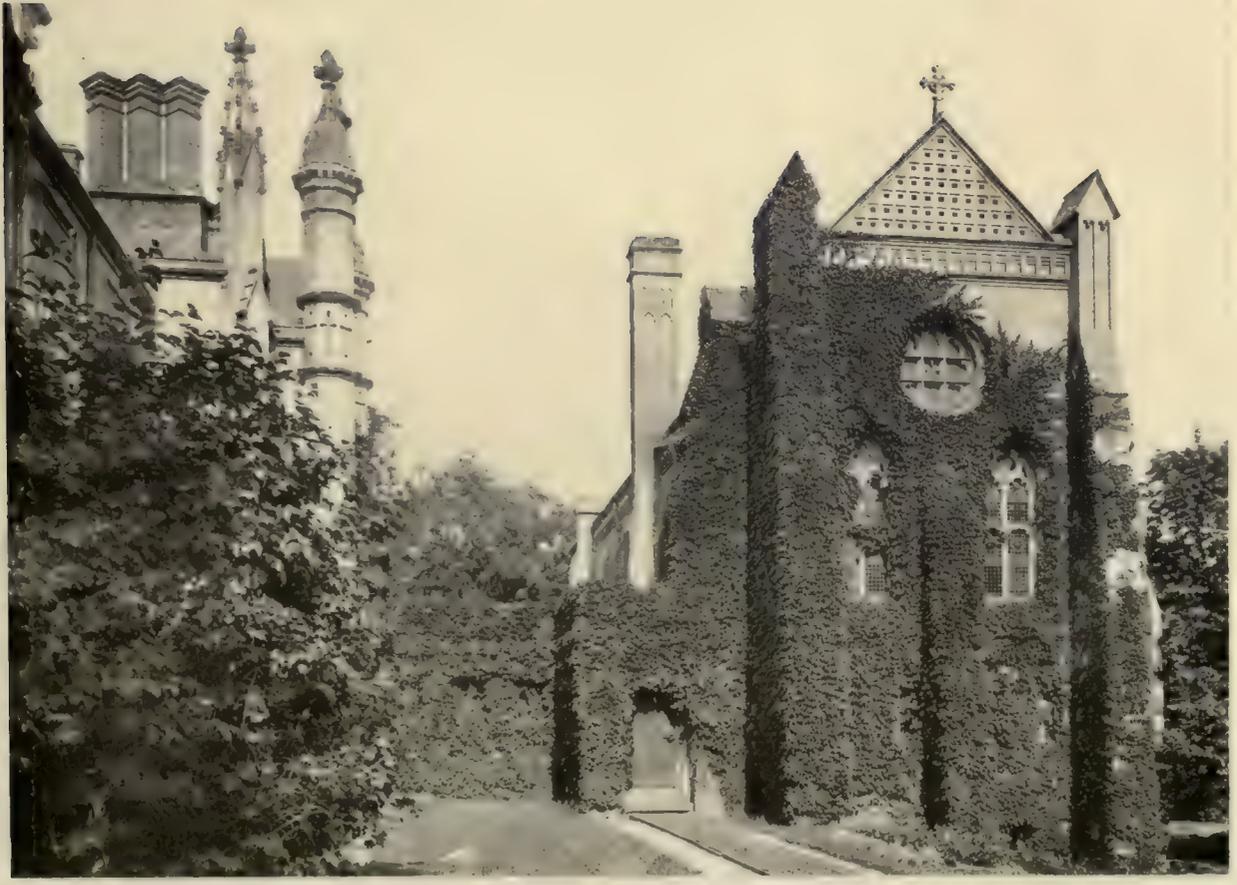


## PICTURESQUE TRINITY

Contiguous to St. Hilda's is the Provost's Lodge, charmingly situated at the head of a series of terraces leading down to the ravine. It was on these terraces that the members and friends of the University were seated during the course of the Jubilee Celebration in June, 1902, to witness the performance by the students, in the original Greek, of the "Frogs" of Aristophanes on the lawn below. The old Bickford homestead, with its adjacent grounds, has recently been purchased by the University, and will be available for College use at an early date, on the expiration of the lease under which the purchase was made. It has been suggested that this would form an ideal site for the proposed new St. Hilda's College, being at once sufficiently secluded in grounds of its own, and yet conveniently near to Trinity's lecture rooms.

*The* One of the most striking features of Trinity's group of buildings is the Chapel.  
*Chapel* The west elevation is particularly effective, and, covered as it is with Boston Ivy, makes a peculiarly beautiful addition to the south façade of the College. The substantial apsidal termination at the east end rises sheer out of the sloping bank of the ravine. The tall cross which crowns the apex of its roof and the slender lancet windows are seen through the dense masses of foliage which fringe the borders of the ravine, while the massive severity of the south side is almost entirely masked by the carefully selected trees which have been planted for the purpose. Inside, the usual English arrangement of chapel and ante-chapel is followed, the latter being surmounted by a gallery extending from the west wall to the exceedingly handsome screen of carved oak which separates the two parts. The students of St. Hilda's and visitors to the chapel are accommodated in this

*“ONE of the most striking features of Trinity’s  
group of buildings is the Chapel”*





## PICTURESQUE TRINITY

gallery, while the students in arts and divinity of Trinity College, and the members of the staff are seated in the chapel proper, in stalls arranged in the usual choirwise fashion. When, as is the case on Sundays and holy days, these stalls are filled with men in surplices (Trinity following the usage of the University of Cambridge in this respect), the effect is very striking. A shallow transept on the south side contains the organ, the two arches filled with gilded pipes above a screen of carved oak forming a pleasing feature in the scheme of decoration. When the chapel is completed, and the walls are furnished with carved work to harmonise with the gallery and organ screen, and the present temporary stalls replaced by others in keeping with those already provided for the Provost and Dean at the west end, the interior of the chapel will be sumptuous indeed. Although lacking the stone reredos which was a part of the original design, the handsomely carved Bishop's throne and stone sedilia, the marble steps and tessellated floor, the many-hued windows and well-appointed altar of intricate workmanship, combine to give to the sanctuary as a whole a richness which leaves little to be desired. Over all, the oak roof, as elaborate in its design as it is splendid in its effect, stretches from one end of the chapel to the other, a fitting canopy to the decoration below.

*The Library* The room now used as a library was formerly the chapel. In those days this upper chamber was a sufficiently bare place, though its oriel window of stained glass, with some attempt at decoration at the conventional east end, relieved it from absolute plainness. But the arrangement of the bookcases, forming numerous alcoves, and the handsome appearance of the books themselves, has trans-

*"THE performance by the students, in the original Greek,  
of the Frogs of Aristophanes"*





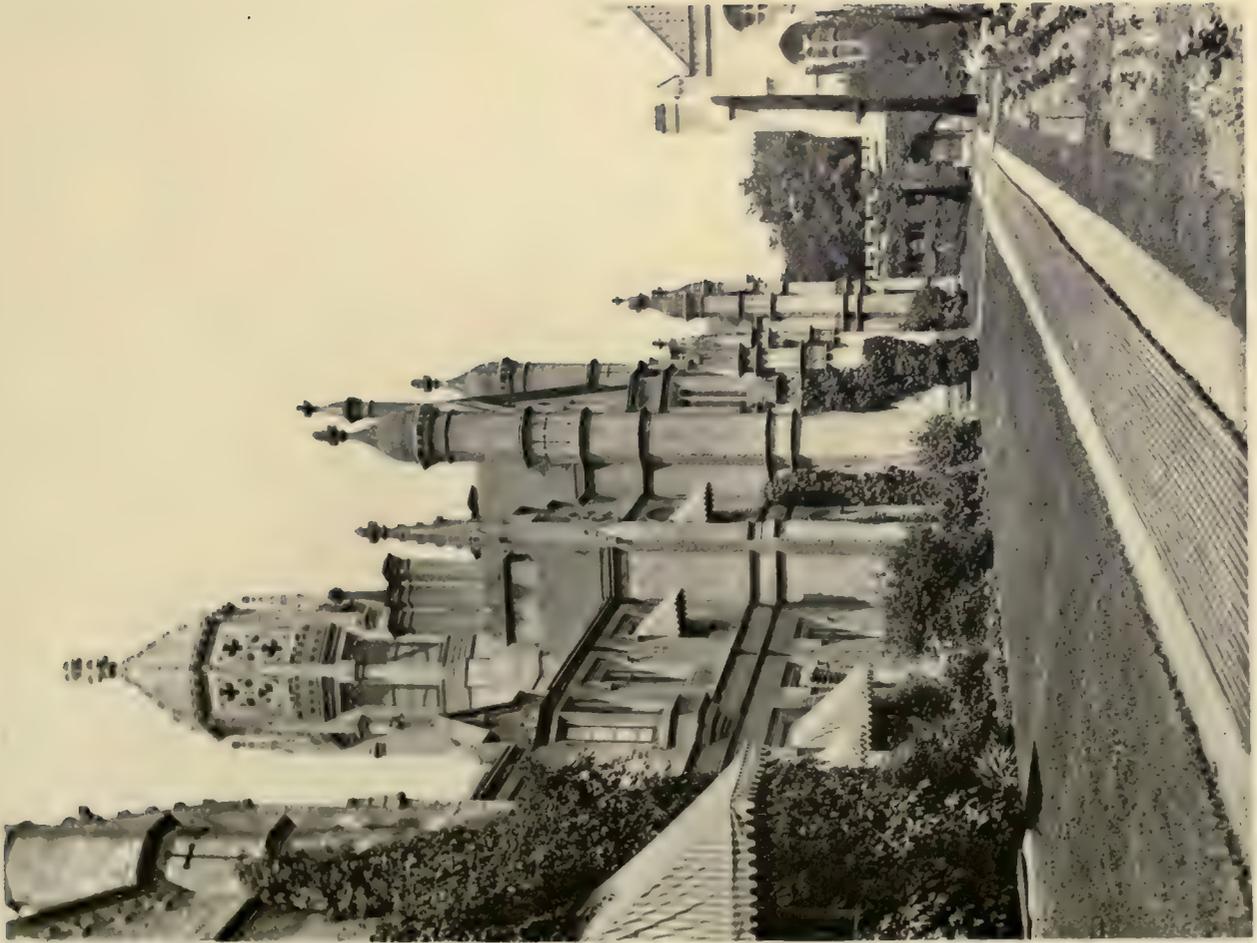
## PICTURESQUE TRINITY

formed the severe little place of worship into a seemly and attractive, if unpretentious, library. The long cloth-covered table in the centre gives it in addition a quiet homelike appearance which is quite inviting, and the whole atmosphere of the chamber is suggestive of gentle dignity. To what purpose this room will eventually be put is not yet decided, but a new and larger library is already necessary, and will soon, it is hoped, be provided.

*The Convocation Hall* This large and handsome building, in the Perpendicular style of architecture, was erected in the year 1877. At the north end is a dais for the members of Convocation, who are provided with carved oak stalls arranged on either side of the imposing chair in which the Chancellor sits when degrees are conferred. At the opposite end is a commodious gallery sacred to the undergraduates, who from this vantage point take a characteristic part in the proceedings below. The walls are hung with oil paintings of Bishop Strachan, the founder of the College, Rev. George Whitaker, first Provost, Dr. Hodder, first Dean of the Medical School, and Senator Allan, the third Chancellor of the University. The panelling round the entire room is of pine, as is also the roof. The windows are of the strikingly large size which belongs to Perpendicular architecture, with elaborate tracery. This hall is also used for examinations, and has been the scene of many a festive gathering.

*The South Front* But the most characteristic feature of Trinity's buildings is the south front. The style of its architecture, so suggestive of what may be seen in the Mother Land, aptly symbolises the continuity of the University's traditions with those of the old colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, and, though more than

*"THE graceful pinnacles and cupolas which lend such a  
charm to the main front of Trinity College"*





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half a century has passed since it was erected, it is doubtful if there is yet to be found any building in Toronto which is its peer in architectural grace. The three decorated lanterns and the numerous pinnacles which stand out against the sky will always hold the chief place in the mental picture which the graduate of Trinity forms of his Alma Mater, while the thought of the graceful gables and vine-clad windows will never fade from his memory. No succeeding addition has approached the beauty of the original, and the somewhat severe lines of the chapel, contrasting in their massive simplicity with the delicate ornamentation of the main building, serves only to enhance its charm.

*The* Just as the beauty of the buildings is increased by the hundred or more vines  
*Grounds* and flowering creepers with which they are embowered, so the loveliness of the grounds has very much to do with Trinity's attractiveness. In extent they cover between thirty and forty acres, and are beautifully wooded with a choice variety of trees and shrubs. Here may be seen stately oaks and graceful elms, with maples, chestnuts, and various other trees of luxuriant growth. The beauty of the grounds is constantly growing as the young trees increase in size. Many of the trees, however, were not planted, but are the original occupants of the uncleared land, and, whether by accident or design, are gracefully and effectively grouped about the slopes of the ravine. Few people who have not explored this ravine have any idea of its picturesqueness. Its beauties have been too long concealed, their very existence seemingly unsuspected, as though nature had provided so choice a gem for the benefit only of the cows which used to pasture there, and the innumerable wild birds which still find a safe asylum in

*"THE ravine with its elms and butternuts . . . in which a  
hundred songsters of the woods uplift their refrain"*





## PICTURESQUE TRINITY

its shady depths. The improvements now in progress, however, will open up the loveliness of this ravine to all who care to inspect it, and the days of neglect and lack of appreciation will pass away with the removal of the unsightly fences and the rubbish of all kinds which have too long discouraged its exploration. The importance of large open spaces in centres of population is well known, though it seems to have been strangely forgotten in Toronto, and the preservation of this ravine will prove a boon, not only to the students who are fortunate enough to pursue their studies amidst such ideal surroundings, conducive alike to mental and physical refreshment, but also to the residents generally of Toronto's west end. Lack of funds has so far hindered the improvement of these grounds, and of the ravine in particular, but the College authorities are now fully alive to the importance of preserving and beautifying their domain, and are gradually making changes in that direction, as funds permit. To this end the services of an experienced landscape gardener have been secured, and, under his direction, new walks and drives will be constructed, and many new trees and shrubs planted, as the funds at the University's disposal enable it to carry out his suggestions.

Among the improvements projected is the planting of an arboretum or botanical garden, to include the most important varieties of Canadian trees and shrubs, which will not only be an attractive feature of the grounds, but will also be of great value to students of botany. Other undertakings will be conservatories and greenhouses, which, together with a gardener's house, will play an obvious and necessary part in the improvements mentioned.

*"FEW people who have not explored this ravine  
have any idea of its picturesqueness"*





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Trinity as it is to-day, in spite of much that still mars its attractiveness, may truthfully be called a thing of beauty. No spot in Toronto has finer natural advantages. No nobler oak trees are to be found in the neighbourhood. The ravine, with its elms and butternuts, not to speak of willows, acacias, and other trees, in which a hundred songsters of the woods uplift their refrain, suggests untold possibilities in the way of landscape gardening. When the proposed improvements have been carried out, and Trinity's graceful turrets and vine-clad gables stand out untrammelled amidst their beautiful surroundings of blossom and leaf, and when its environment of lawns and terraces, of trees and flower beds, of drives and pathways, is perfected, we feel that, with the passing years, it will more and more justify the name which even now it is entitled to bear: Picturesque Trinity.















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"Picturesque Trinity"

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