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When the first colleges were established in the colonies of North America in the 17th century, mathematics was a small fraction, if any part, of the standard curriculum. But in the course of the 19th century, this began to change, in part due to the influence of the increasingly research-oriented universities of Europe and the models they set for American institutions, but also because of the growing specialization within university faculties as the century wore on. By the end of the 19th century, such established institutions as Harvard, Princeton and Yale had prominent departments of mathematics that were to set the standards for the subject in the 20th century, along with new institutions like Johns Hopkins, Chicago, and Berkeley, which were to stress research in particular, and began to experiment with public education in addition to the traditional havens of the private colleges and universities. This talk will chart and assess the significance of these transformations for the emergence of mathematics as a profession in the United States. (Received February 01, 2006)