

same extravagance and misappropriation of which they complained, and advocating the same reductions and retrenchment for which they contended.

On the score of expenditures and extravagance therefore the case of University reformers is established to the very letter, and beyond the letter, of their memorials.

It only remains for us to consider the plan of University reform proposed, and the objections which have been made to it. This will be done in another paper.

Having shown by indubitable proofs, and the admissions of the *Globe*, that expenditures of the University Funds unauthorized by law and extravagant in themselves, have been made, we now proceed to consider the plan of University reform proposed, and the objections which have been made to it. The plan of University reform proposed involves chiefly three questions,—1st. The improvement and unity of the University fund; 2ndly. The affiliation of Colleges in one University; 3rdly. The public aid to be given to affiliated Colleges.

I. Improvement and Unity of the University Fund.

One of the most humiliating facts in the history of Upper Canada is, that the capital of a fund set apart and consecrated to the higher education of the country, has been misapplied and reduced to the amount of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the annual income of the fund has been thereby proportionably diminished. Apart from very large sums expended, as already shown, we may add that the part of the fund expended, in behalf of the Upper Canada College, (a Toronto Grammar School) with interest which would have accumulated had the money been invested at six per cent., would amount to no less than *three hundred and sixty-eight thousand one hundred and ninety-six dollars*, (\$368,196).

It is of no use to inquire now when and by what authority the capital of the University Fund has been so deplorably reduced, and its annual income so misapplied and exceeded; but every one must admit the duty of protecting, improving and economizing that fund in every way possible. The recommendations of the University Commissioners for that purpose, deserve the highest praise, instead of censure, whether each detail of their recommendations be thought best or not.

One of the recommendations of the Commissioners is to *capitalize* the fund and convert it into public debentures; which, (without increasing the public debt) would at once put an end to further mismanagement of the fund and prevent its further reduction.

Another recommendation of the Commissioners

is, that the Fund should be *improved*, not by adding to the original endowment, but by regarding that endowment as a sacred deposit and consecration to the higher education of the country, and by therefore restoring to the endowment what has been diverted from it to other objects, by whomsoever such diversion may have been made. And we submit that nothing would contribute more to the dignity of the country, to its noblest educational interests, to the feelings of self-respect and patriotic pride of every lover of it, than the fact that the Canadian Legislature had stamped by its fiat the *inviolableness* of its highest educational fund—repairing the breaches which have been made in it, and restoring to the last farthing the spoiliations which have been committed upon it, or the diversions which have been made from it. What a guarantee would such an act be to our every educational and social interest; and what a hope and future would it awaken and open up to our country! In comparison of such a principle, such an object, such an interest, such a future, how utterly trivial and unworthy are the petty objections about increasing the public debt! Such an act would be only paying a debt to a wronged and abused interest of the country, and would be one of the best preventatives against any future abuse of public trust, and improvidence in the contract and expenditure of public debt.

Every man competent to review the progress of Government, legislation and society in our country, as well as in the neighboring States, during the last ten years, must feel that the standard of the public virtue has been lowered, that the sense of public, in contradistinction to personal interests, has been blunted, that even the spirit and method of discussing public questions has declined, and the moral sinews of uprightness, justice, manliness, and patriotism in political procedures, from local elections up to the highest acts of civil polity have been greatly relaxed. There is, therefore absolute need of reform; and the first step of reform, in a nation, as in an individual, is confession, restoring what has been wrongfully taken, and amendment of life. The language and influence of an act of reparation of the wrongs which have been committed against the University Endowment, would be of infinitely more value in girding up and strengthening the loins of public virtue in the Government and Legislation of the country aside from the direct advantages to higher education, than any sum of money which such an Act might require. When it is recollected that more than ten hundred thousand dollars have been expended on contemplated public buildings at Ottawa, and that eight hundred thousand dollars