

expecting, Victoria College, at the termination of a Session, on the occasion of a public examination; and undoubtedly they would have done so, had there been any grounds for making out a favourable statement; but all the Editor of the *Guardian* says, is not more than the Editor of any journal in the Province might say. "We are not enough acquainted with the College to say any thing of its present condition." Is this satisfactory to the people of Canada, and to the members of the Wesleyan Methodist church? What have they to do with the Editors' personal knowledge or ignorance of the Institution? They expect to be furnished with full information on the state of the Institution, and all they get from the Editor of the *Guardian* is, "We are not sufficiently acquainted with the College."

On the religious state of the College we can derive some information from the Editor of the *Guardian* by means of what he omits, more than by means of what he states. From the following words we conclude the religious state of the Institution is as unsatisfactory as its financial state; as he has nothing whatever to say but in reference to the past, and the future;—nothing whatever as to the present. With all this care to tell about the past and to express hope for the future, it is evident that if any thing could have been said to the advantage of the Institution, it would have been said; but nothing is said:—

"In a religious view, we are not enough acquainted with the College to say any thing of its present condition. The religious state of former years afforded the friends of the institution great satisfaction. Revivals of religion have really been experienced in it. We should rejoice if such were of frequent occurrence. The patronage of some may be lost by this event; but the real friends of the Institution will not forsake it, but rather cling the closer to it, when they see useful learning and experimental piety successfully promoted and by the same tutors, under the blessing of Him without whose blessing nothing good can proceed."

In the above extract there is certainly a little more information. It states that "revivals of religion have really been experienced in it." What a wonderful occurrence in a College erected and instituted for the very purpose! Then there really have been revivals! How unexpected!—how unsuited to the spirit of the Institution! We could not expect more explicit information as to the failure of the Institution, as to revivals of religion, if all that can be said is, that there really have been some.

With regard to moral education, in the best sense of the word, it cannot be efficient if the state of the Institution is unfavourable to revivals of religion; neither can prosper separately.

With reference to a good Classical Education, we fear no better account can be given. That there are, and have been young men there, of most promising talents, and who have improved them well, is not to be denied; but is this at all to be placed to the credit of the Institution! That same amount of talent would doubtless have received improvement had Victoria College never been erected. If we look to the persons who have been Principals, and trace their origin and education, we shall find that there has been nothing remarkable in this way calculated to inspire with confidence the pupils or the people at

of Principal. To this, we only know of one exception with reference to Victoria College; though we would not by any means wish to be understood that we insinuate the least personal disrespect to any of them.

There is an apprenticeship to be served in College education, which is indispensable. It is that which induces habits favourable to study, and teaching; even to those duties which may be most called a drudgery,—favourable to the establishment of a disciplinary method to which none but those who have served such apprenticeship; and by which they have imbibed Collegiate habits, are equal. We do not hesitate to say that a person who has lived the somewhat irregular life, at one time of an Itinerant Preacher—at another of Editor of a Newspaper—and at another of a Political Agent—is totally incompetent, by deficiency as to fixed habits, for the management of a Collegiate Institution. This objection applies to all Methodist Preachers, in some degree; and experience sustains our views. If we refer to the personal qualification of Doctor Ryerson, we shall not conceal our opinion that his education has been too limited and too irregular to admit of his being qualified to be head of a Collegiate Institution. He perhaps deserves to be admired as a man of considerable talent; but he has not yet proved to the world that the talents he is endowed with have been fully controlled to the best purposes. If his own mind has, to the present time, run wild, how can he superintend the training of other minds in subservience to all the grand objects of a moral, religious, and classical education?

Having gone through our subject as far as the Editor of the *Guardian* could assist us, we propose to go on without him, and show the Methodist community a little more of the state of Victoria College.

In his statement respecting Victoria College, the Editor of the *Guardian* has said a little more than that he is not acquainted with its condition; he has told the public that the Institution is an entire failure; not being supported by the people, and that it is sinking £400 per annum, while it receives £500 per annum from Government. Let it be observed, that if this £500 from Government was not obtained, the Institution would be getting in debt £900 per annum. The parties that will advocate further assistance, without an entire remodelling of the institution, must be mad. Who ever heard of an institution being in a prosperous condition in other respects, when its funds were in confusion? The thing is impossible. We may ask whether its decline is gradual or sudden; if gradual, the bad management is of long standing; or, if it be said there is no bad management, but it has been well managed all along, the case is worse for the Institution. What sort of an Institution then must it be, when with good management from year to year without interruption, it cannot be saved from decline; and if gradual the decline, the flattering accounts of its prosperous state, from year to year published in the *Guardian*, and especially that of last year, are all fallacious. If the decline has been sudden, nothing can better account for it than the conduct of Dr. Ryerson its Principal, who has ren-

dered the Institution unpopular throughout the Province.

To refer again to the moral aspect of the College. We declare we have never touched a subject so painfully mortifying as this; so unexpected is the existence of any ground of complaint—so secret have all things been kept—that if we tell the truth—the whole truth, it will scarcely be possible for us to escape the imputation of slander of the most malicious description,—we expose ourselves to the other branches of the Methodist family as if we had intended to degrade them all. We shall not do this—we shall not lift the veil entirely that conceals so much rottenness and corruption. If we did, the name of Methodist would become a by-word, and a reproach throughout the Province; suggesting only ideas of profound contempt. We feel it our duty to state explicitly, that these observations do not apply to any Branch of the Methodist family, but that of the Wesleyan Methodist church in Canada; nor to any part of that Church, but a few of the rulers of the Conference, though the unavoidable consequence would be to some extent, that the whole body would bear the reproach brought on it by a few. We dare not tell all we know, but shall only say, that gross immorality has been committed, sufficient to account for the unpopularity of the Institution throughout the Methodist body. The parents of the Youth of Canada have been deceived, and grossly imposed upon, when they expected for their children a sound, moral, religious and classical education there. Revivals of religion, indeed! Religion is disgraced by the mention of it—when ordinary morality,—or rather common decency, was wanting. Surely it was superfluous for the Editor of the *Guardian* to say any thing about the loss of Patronage through revivals of religion: the College cannot have suffered by that means.

The important fact now proved, in relation to the Victoria College, is, that it is not supported by the public, nor by that class of the Canadian population for whose special benefit it was instituted. It is in a sinking state, and almost gone, by the admission of the organ of the Conference. That organ now says, "increased assistance is urgently required from the Government, or some other quarter; else, how can the Institution live?" Did ever such a thing happen in the whole world before, that a well-conducted College, capable of giving a sound, moral, religious, and classical education, failed of public support? The *Christian Guardian* has claimed 120,000 of the Canadian population as being under the influence of the ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church: we should think that one shilling per annum from each of these 120,000 individuals, with the fees from the pupils, and the Government allowance of £500 per annum, ought to maintain the College; but we must confess that we are entirely in the dark on the subject of the receipts and disbursements of the Institution: we know no more of this than we do of the private affairs of the managers of it; and it seems to be considered by them that the Methodist community have no more right to know the first than they have to do with