

Thirty-three years ago Parliament possessed the will to relieve the Province of an incubus, but, unfortunately, lacked the way; in our more fortunate day Parliament possesses the means, let us hope that the disposition to act is not wanting!

PARLIAMENT DELIVERS A VALEDICTORY HARANGUE TO THE FOUNDER OF U. C. COLLEGE.

In 1836 the Legislature again addressed itself to the absorbing topic of the time—verdict as usual. The reply of the Assembly to the Speech from the Throne [82] contains the following passage: "We have also been 'anxious in past years to make the means of education general and easily available, but it has only lately become known to the Legislature that 'a bountiful provision in lands was made by the Crown about forty years ago, though since deteriorated by a secret unfavourable exchange for inferior lands. 'Nor ought we to fail to notice that large appropriations have been made 'out of the University fund, not to the District [i. e. Grammar] Schools 'and Township [i. e. Common] Schools, undeservedly neglected, but to 'sustain U. C. College in this city, in which the sons of all the wealthiest 'families are educated, and which ought therefore to be supported without 'so questionable an encroachment on public funds.' A few days after the above words had been addressed to Sir John Colborne he was succeeded in the administration of the Government by Sir F. B. Head. [83]

THAT DISMAL AFFAIR OF 1837.

The grievances complained of by the people of Upper Canada had been enumerated to the Imperial Government in the celebrated Seventh Report, [84] and among those grievances, the maintenance of U. C. College obtained a chief place—the cost and uselessness of that institution being recited in words already quoted. The cry of the people for relief from their burdens was, unhappily, disregarded. Then the air became heavy with ominous murmure. The supplies were, for the first time in our annals, stopped, [85] and soon after this, the affrighted Province witnessed the actual effusion of blood. [86] U. C. College thus enjoys the most unenviable distinction of being one of the causes of the civil contest of 1837! The support of that School had been made by the people a chief cause of complaint; and, in 1839, after the contest was over, and when the Earl of Durham was reviewing the causes that led to that unhappy outbreak, he felt himself forced to mention the alienation of the Grammar School Reserves for the aggrandizement of U. C. College! [87] After

82 Journal Assembly, 1836, Wednesday, January 20.

83 The above words were addressed to Sir John Colborne on January 20; on the 25th of the same month, Sir Francis Head assumed the administration of affairs.

84 Journal Assembly 1836, Appendix Vol. I.—Document No. 21.

85 Journal Assembly 1836, Wednesday, April 20.

86 December 4, 1837—Narrative drawn up by MacKensie at Navy Island.

87 Report on the Affairs of British North America—Upper Canada—Lord Durham uses the following language: "Of the lands which were originally appropriated for the support of Schools throughout the country, by far the most valuable portion has been diverted to the endowment of the University, from which those only derive any benefit who reside in Toronto, or those who, having a large assured income, are enabled to maintain their children in that town, at an expense which has been estimated at £50 per annum for each child." Though the fact of an unfair division of the Grammar School Reserves having been made, in the interest of the University, is undeniable, yet, from Lord Durham's speaking of the institution as in actual operation, it is quite evident that he really makes chief reference to Upper Canada College. King's College was not put into operation for five years after the date of Lord Durham's tour of observation.