

Appendix
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There are, however, some circumstances which I cannot omit noticing in regard to the views of the Board and the case of Victoria College.

The first is, that the Buildings of Victoria College are situated at Cobourg. It cannot, therefore, derive any benefit to its pupils from its connexion with the University situated at Toronto. If its incorporation with the Toronto University be not accompanied with an increase of pecuniary aid, the change in its relations will be one of sacrifice and loss in every respect. Should the Board be remunerated for the Buildings so as to be able to erect a new establishment at Toronto, the case would be different.

Another circumstance requiring notice is, considering where Victoria College is situated, that the resources of the Wesleyan Body have been literally exhausted in erecting the Buildings (on which a debt still remains); that they have been erected by subscription for specific objects; that the Institution affords the only means of giving to a great portion of the youth of the Wesleyan Methodist Church a superior practical education; of furnishing facilities for the education of the sons of Wesleyan Ministers, and providing for the more thorough education and training of the Wesleyan Clergy; the Board have felt it imperative that the operations of the College should be continued.

They have not been ambitious as to the privilege of conferring Degrees in the Arts and Sciences; but they have been chiefly anxious to obtain the requisite endowment or assistance to enable them to accomplish these benevolent and patriotic objects for which the Institution was originally established.

Under the present circumstances of the Province, it is not possible that a University Education can be attained by the Clergy generally; or that more can be done in this respect than is now doing by the Lord Bishop of Toronto, aided by the Propagation Society, (at whose disposal a large portion of the proceeds of the Clergy Reserves has been placed) in the Episcopal Theological Institution at Cobourg, where young men are aided in procuring a good classical education, and are regularly instructed in the Science of Theology. This is what is sought to be done in respect to the candidates for the Wesleyan Ministry.

Again, the system of the Wesleyan Ministry rendering the frequent removals of the Ministers necessary, and their means of support being extremely limited, they can give their sons no other education than that which may be obtained in the Schools near which they are from time to time situated. It is not practicable under such circumstances for the Wesleyan Ministers to give their sons even a tolerable education, without some Institution which will be accessible to them upon reduced terms, and which will provide for the moral as well as intellectual education of their sons.

With a view to these high and benevolent interests, apart from the more general and popular objects of Victoria College, the Board have felt it their duty to insist upon its continued operations.

The case of the Wesleyan Body in connexion with Victoria College is simply this: the Wesleyan Body have made exertions beyond those of any other persuasion in Upper Canada, to improve the state of education among their Clergy and People; they did so with the expectation and assurance that their efforts would be suitably encouraged by the Government, and their lack of means be thus supplied. Large appropriations by Government have been made for many years to the Clergy of the Churches of England, Scotland, and Rome,

while not a farthing has been granted to the Clergy of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, whose labours have been confessedly more extensive and more self-sacrificing than those of either of the other three persuasions above mentioned.

The Wesleyan Conference and the Board of Victoria College on its behalf, have repeatedly submitted these facts to the consideration of the Government, and have entreated as some mitigation of the inequality of the treatment of the Wesleyan, and the three other leading religious persuasions in the Country, additional aid to Victoria College.

Up to the present time their representations and entreaties have been in vain; not a six-pence has been as yet allowed them for the settlement of the Clergy Reserve question. The only assistance obtained is the continuation of the pittance recommended by Lord Sydenham, in order to relieve the Institution from otherwise inextricable embarrassments. The continuation of this Grant has mitigated the pressure of the debts owing by the College, but has not been sufficient to enable the Board to employ a single additional Teacher though the Institution has been incorporated as a College, and the higher branches of collegiate instruction have been attempted to be given.

The dissatisfaction which this unequal and painful state of things was calculated to create among the Wesleyan Ministers and People, has been partially counteracted up to the present time by assurances and expectations that the Government would do them justice at least to some extent; as such has been the principle of policy avowed both by the Imperial and Provincial Governments.

But the moment the hope of such a result is extinguished, deep and universal dissatisfaction, increased by the bitterness of disappointment, will take possession of the minds of the Ministers and Congregations of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The number of our regular Ministers in Upper Canada exceeds 140, and from the number of their Congregations, and the period and extent of their labours, their circumstances and wishes on this question deserve, I submit, the most favourable consideration of the Government.

My present connexion with Victoria College is merely honorary; but I speak from a perfect knowledge of facts, which it is not in my power to change or modify, and which I have felt it my imperative duty to submit to the consideration of His Excellency in connexion with the settlement of the University Question.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c., &c.

(Signed,) EGERTON RYERSON.

J. M. HIGGINSON, Esquire.
Private Secretary,
&c., &c., &c.

No. 10.—Letter from the Very Reverend Angus McDonell, College of Regiopolis.

(Copy.)

MONTREAL, March 24th, 1846.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 9th instant, informing me as one of the Trustees of the College of Regiopolis, that you were

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