

are sometimes disputed. I intend to recall to your recollection admitted facts. For many years before Confederation the question of State aid to denominational institutions agitated the minds of the people of the old Province of Canada. It was familiar to us at that day. Arguments *pro* and *con* were advanced, and it was pretty plain to those who looked at the material for forming a judgment as to the popular sentiment, that the sentiment of the people of Ontario was hostile to that system. Confederation came and gave us freedom for local affairs, including the great question of education. All the people of Ontario had settled down to the view that the voluntary system should be carried out in our institutions to the fullest extent, and the proof of that end is obvious. Up to that time seven colleges in the Province were receiving public grants:—

Regiopolis, Kingston.....	\$3,000
Queen's, Kingston.....	5,000
Bytown, Ottawa.....	1,400
St. Michael's, Toronto.....	2,000
Trinity, Toronto.....	4,000
Victoria, Cobourg.....	5,000
L'Assomption, Sandwich....	1,000

In the very first session of the Legislature of Ontario, the Government of Sandfield Macdonald proposed that these grants should be discontinued, that they should be paid for eighteen months, for convenience sake, and thereafter discontinued on the ground of their inexpediency, and a law was proposed which declared that it should not be lawful after that time. That law was assented to by the whole Legislature. There was no division of parties upon it. I do not mean to say there was not a man in Parliament who did not sympathize with that law. But the public sentiment was overwhelmingly in favour of it. An attempt was made to get up an agitation against this policy. The

subject was discussed during the recess, and we went back to Parliament knowing that the subject would be brought up again; and in December, 1868, it was proposed

"That in the opinion of this House it is necessary and expedient in the interests of collegiate education that some comprehensive scheme be devised and adopted for giving effect to the objects, and for extending the operation of the Act, 16 Vic. cap. 89, for the establishment of a Provincial University, and the affiliation of colleges to be supported in connection therewith.

To this resolution the following amendment was moved:—

"While this house recognizes the importance of educational interests it is still of the opinion, as expressed by the Act of last session, that no college or institution under the control of any religious denomination should receive aid from the public treasury."

Now, some who approved of the principles of the amendment, yet wished to recognize the desirability of some improvement in our existing provisions for superior education, and particularly did they wish to recognize the expediency of providing for a uniform, elevated standard of education through the medium of the Provincial University. I had the honour of moving in that direction, but I felt that there were great difficulties in the way that could not be overcome without the cordial assent of existing institutions whose chartered rights no one proposed to interfere with, in the slightest degree: that this action must be purely voluntary or nothing could be done. I felt also that it was not for those who stood in the relation in which they still stand to our educational system to devise a plan which they had not power to carry out, because, as I have stated, no plan could be carried out