

COPY,

To His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland,
&c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Committee of the Executive Council to whom Your Excellency was pleased to refer the Consideration of a plan for establishing a University in this Province assembled this day, and by Your Excellency's permission requested the attendance and assistance of His Majesty's Attorney General.

A letter was read from His Grace the Duke of Portland to Lt. Governor Simcoe bearing date the 22nd June, 1796 acknowledging the Receipt of a letter from the Bishop of Quebec upon the subject of a school of a higher class, which His Grace then did not think necessary in Upper Canada. A letter was also read from His Grace bearing date, 4th, Nov. 1797, acknowledging an address from the two Houses of the Legislature requesting an appropriation of Crown Lands for the establishment of Schools, and communicating his Majesty's pleasure to acquiesce in their petition directing the Governor to consult the members of the executive Council, Judges and Law officers on the requisite means, to report to His Grace, for His Majesty's information what schools were then necessary, the means of erecting and endowing them, the amount necessary, and also to erect and endow a University.

On this letter, the Committee named reported four schools to be necessary, a sum of three thousand pounds requisite to erect them, and an annual sum of one hundred and eighty pounds to pay a master and sub-master and keep the building in repair, and the sum of three thousand six hundred and twenty pounds for a University.

That a fund to raise this sum would require five Hundred thousand Acres of Land which was recommended to be set apart for such purpose, and the report, approved by the President was directed to be transmitted for the information of His Majesty's Government.

No answer to this report or farther confirmation of it can be traced in the office of the Executive Council. The committee therefore, concurring in opinion with His Majesty's Attorney General that the appropriation of that quantity of land is not sufficiently sanctioned to authorise a grant in other portions than limited by His Majesty's commission, humbly recommend that your Excellency do call the attention of his Majesty's Government to a formal sanction, under the royal sign manual, or the signature of His Majesty's principal Secretary of state for the Colonies, to sell, lease, Grant, and dispose

of the said five hundred thousand acres of land for the purpose of establishing a university in this Province.

In the mean time in conformity to your Excellency's pleasure the committee proceeded to consider the detail required by your Excellency.

In pursuing this object the Committee first observe that provision for District Schools is not now required out of this fund, being made by the Legislature. The scale established by the former Committee appears at present very inadequate.

The Committee is of opinion that a sum not less than ten thousand pounds will be required to erect a suitable building and provide a library, philosophical apparatus and a botanic garden.

That an annual sum of four thousand pounds may be deemed necessary to defray the salaries of principal, professors, preceptors, scholarships, librarian, gardeners and other officers with other contingencies.

That to raise these sums, it will be proper that a sale of lands should be made from time to time, to meet, with security, the exigencies of the establishment, until the revenue will supply the annual expenditure.

That a commission should permanently attend with large powers to sell and lease the land and manage its revenues under the direction of the Executive Government.

It is also considered that it would conduce much to the importance and utility of the projected university if its constitution should be by a Royal Charter. All which is humbly submitted.

By order,

(SIGNED) W. DUMMER POWELL, C. J.

Executive Council Chamber,
York 7th January 1819.

Extract of a Report of the Executive Council to the Lieutenant Governor dated 17th November 1830.

The Council entirely concurs in the recommendations of your Excellency assuming that an equivalent in lands may be so arranged in the proposed exchanges as neither to prejudice the interests of the Crown, nor of the school fund, and indeed it appears to the council, that the measure suggested will be highly favorable to the public interests in affording the crown the means of dispensing more generally through the country the many respectable emigrants arriving from Europe.