

effort to make it successful. I can scarcely doubt that, if the heads of the various colleges once met together, ignoring all denominational issues, with which, as a common board, they could have no reason for interfering—and looking solely to the maintenance of an adequate system of instruction—most, if not all, of their apprehended difficulties would vanish. But I must be allowed to say, meanwhile, that the large concessions offered on our part were only justifiable on the assumption that all the colleges represented at the conference united in the compromise. So long as this was understood, the only action on my part has been unreservedly to commend it for acceptance, alike to the College Council and to the Senate of the University. But when one after another of the contracting parties ignores the conditions agreed to after repeated conferences; and, without concerted action, asks for diverse and even conflicting modifications, I fail to see why the representatives of University College are alone to be bound by conditions which others modify at their will. Some of the new demands are of such a nature that I should be recreant to the trust confided in me as representative of this college if I did not give timely warning of the danger to which not only the Provincial College, but our whole system of national education is exposed by a proposal to trammel the free action of the University, and to organize within its Senate a sectional minority, necessarily denominational in character, with a power of veto upon the action of a large majority.

Throughout my long connection with this college, I have consistently advocated its claims as an unsectarian national institution, in harmony with our whole Provincial system of education. I have seen a generation grow up to maturity; and not a few

of my old pupils advanced to places of honourable trust and distinction in the legislature, in the churches, on the bench and at the bar, in the colleges and schools of this and other lands, as well as in other influential positions. A new generation is stepping into their place; and fathers who know from personal experience the character of the training, the culture and the moral discipline which this college offered to themselves, give the strongest practical evidence of their approval by enrolling their sons to follow in their steps. Nothing in all the experience of a lifetime has tended to shake my faith in the superiority of a national, as compared with any denominational system; and above all, in a country where divisions have so multiplied among professing Christians that denominationalism applied to education means, not a system, but a multiplication of organizations alike costly, conflicting and inadequate for the objects aimed at. For such is the ever-widening range of the sciences; and the growing comprehension of philology in its many-sided relations to ancient and modern, to cultured and to barbarous languages, that all the appliances of the best equipped universities fall short of the demands of the age. The system of national education which this college represents has proved no failure in Canada. We have gone on in healthful progress, in growing numbers, in increasing requirements, in thoroughness and efficiency, through all the years since the Canadian Legislature emancipated this college from the mischievous constraints of a narrow denominational control; and, so long as I am privileged to bear any part in it, I shall watch with jealousy every modification which threatens to rob it in any degree of its national, unsectarian character.

Its influence on the denomi-