

Buildings.

It is objected generally to the expenditure on the buildings, that the Act which contemplates only additions to the present buildings, does not authorise new ones on a new site. Unfortunately, in the same session, when the University Amendment Act was passed, another Act* gave the Government authority to take possession of the property for Provincial purposes, and the University and College were ejected, and temporarily accommodated in the Parliament Buildings. When, in 1855, the Seat of Government returned to Toronto, the College was again moved, and temporary additions were made to the old Medical School, which rendered it available for a time; but this had become perfectly inadequate to the accommodation of the College before the new buildings were ready; and the frame additions were so temporary in their construction, that the Bursar has reported to me, now that it has returned into his possession, that it would be more economical to pull them down and sell the material, than to put them in effectual repair. The stone building, originally intended for the College, is still in the occupation of Government for another public object. If then the Act is to be interpreted in the literal sense given to it by Dr. Cook and others, there were no buildings to which to make the additions. This, however, is not the view to take of the question. The Act had established a central University and a College, endowed from the public funds, with a staff of efficient professors. It was necessary to provide a building for their occupation, and especially to provide the means of accommodating resident students, without which one of the great advantages of a University education would have been lost. Such an institution was not intended to be of an ephemeral character, to be moved about as convenience dictated, from one public building to another; and as the endowment fortunately supplied the means, it has been provided with a durable home, worthy of the position it holds in the country, and of a still higher destiny which the rapidly increasing number of its students shows that it is destined to achieve. The Government of the day, therefore, wisely, as I think, exercised the undoubted power given by the Act, and authorised the Senate to expend £75,000 out of the Permanent Fund for this purpose.

Library and Museum.

The Government also authorized the expenditure, from the same source, of £20,000 upon a Library and Museum. It is objected that such an expenditure is foreign to the purposes for which the University was established; but I can hardly think that the Committee and the Legislature will entertain that view. There is not a University or College in the world of any standing, which has not already acquired, or is not accumulating, a Library and Museum, as essential to the prosecution of the higher studies. Dr. Cook partially, it would seem, admits of a Library, but he would have it to belong to the College and not to the University, and would give out of the endowment a similar sum to all other Colleges for their Libraries. Now, it must be remembered, that

* This Act is 16 Vic., cap. 161. to which Dr. Ryerson (p. 34 C. P.) ridiculously says that Mr. Langton refers, as authorising the erection of University Buildings.