

highly educated women, through whom we may look for intellectual culture extending its refining influences even into the stormy arena of political contention, while it places before the rising generation a humane and ennobling standard such as we can very partially lay claim to now. This is what I understand by the higher education of women; and this the present scheme tends to retard, rather than to secure. It is in the highest interests, not of true womanhood only, but of Canada's true manhood also, that I have urged for years the crowning of our Provincial educational system by the establishment of a college for women, adapted for all their special requirements, and not less adequately organized and equipped than that for young men. But, while it is right that I should give free expression to my opinions in reference to a change in our college system of graver significance than anything that has been done since the secularization of the university in 1850, we are here to carry out whatever system the Legislature may determine; and it will be our aim in the future, as it has been our successful endeavour in the past, to carry it out to ever-progressive results.

But our growing numbers, and the expansion of our university curriculum to place it abreast of the science and scholarship of the age, have another aspect for us in the anxiety, not unnaturally aroused in the friends of the institution, as its expenditure more and more approximates to the annual revenue from the endowment. I am not disposed to trouble myself with our claims on the Provincial treasury. It is a mere truism that the Government are bound to see that the Provincial College does not fall behind the wants of the people and the progress of the age. But I have never been able to sympathize with those who imagine that a Provincial College

is shut out from all hope of private liberality. England's and Scotland's universities, no less than Trinity College, Dublin, are to all intents and purposes State institutions, subjected to the most radical changes in their systems, constitution, and denominational oversight, by parliamentary enactments, and supplemented by State funds. Yet they largely share in private beneficence. Nor can I doubt that University College will yet rejoice in generous benefactors, whose names will live in honourable remembrance, associated with the chairs they have founded and the resources they have supplied. But, meanwhile, the inadequate resources of all our colleges, provincial and denominational, have given a new stimulus to the scheme for an amalgamation of colleges, unsuccessfully aimed at in the University Bill of 1853; and many friends of higher education are asking anew whether some plan of united action cannot be devised which shall secure healthful co-operation, and an economizing of the resources of the colleges of Ontario. My personal relations with the heads of other colleges are of so friendly a nature that I can look forward with nothing but pleasure to any practical scheme of confederation which shall bring us into closer union in promoting the great object of higher education which we have all at heart. But it is not for us, whose system is dictated to us by the Legislature, to originate any such scheme. As to University College, it is not only growing in numbers, but, I fully believe, increasing in efficiency; and, if not unwisely tampered with by the reckless spirit of utopian innovation, I entertain no apprehensions as to its future, financial or otherwise. It has a right to say to the Legislature, without invidious disparagement of other institutions, that it is doing the work for which it was established: and has