

CONDITIONAL ASSENT OF THE ASSEMBLY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF U. C. COLLEGE.

The conditions of assent referred to were as follows: 1. That the projected institution should do University work. [22] 2. That, as thus doing University work it should be dependent for support on the University Endowment. [23] 3. That it should be conducted with the utmost economy, [24] and 4. *That it should not be erected at York.* [25]—Though Sir John Colborne had already pledged his word [26] to the fulfilment of that condition which related to the support of the new institution, some apprehension of treachery appears to have arisen; for, on Tuesday Jan. 19, 1830, [27] we find Mr. W. L. Mackenzie in the House of Assembly moving for a statement of the sources of income of the "*College or University now in progress.*" On the following Saturday [28] the Governor sent down a reply which was chiefly remarkable for its oracular obscurity. This was not very re-assuring to the House. Accordingly, again on Tuesday, Feb. 2, [29] an Address was passed requesting the Governor to lay before Parliament "the particulars of the foundation of U. C. College with all other particulars and details respecting the principles and economy of the institution." When thus questioned categorically, oracular responses would not do. The Governor therefore on the following Thursday [30] replied in plain English, "Gentlemen, I cannot convey much more information on the subject of this Address than has already been laid before the House of Assembly." As, however, the Governor had hitherto laid before Parliament absolutely no information—a fact which this second Address of the Assembly presented within two weeks after the first sufficiently proves,—the unavoidable inference is that the founder had no clear conception of the purpose of the institution he was attempting to force upon the country. The chief motive actuating Sir John in this whole matter of U. C. College, appears to have been a vain desire to perpetuate his name by means of a literary foundation. For the Assembly, in their negotiations on the subject, had given him a kind of promise that the new institution, if answerable to their views, would be known as Colborne College. [30] It is not surprising that, when the founder of U. C. College abandoned as hopeless the problem of its design, the present Principal of the institution is in a state of amusing perplexity, [31] when attempting to describe its functions. It would, of course, be unfair to expect of him to know more of its founder's intentions than the founder did himself.

Nearly all the rest of the Governor's message was occupied, by way of a diversion of the main inquiry of the Assembly, with a rambling account of the manner in which the Teachers had been, and were, in future to be, appointed. The nomination of the Masters was to be committed to the Chancellors of the old English Universities—a mode of appointment which by the way, has never, we believe, since the date of the first appoint-

22 Journal Assembly 1829, Friday, March 2nd, Resolution No. 14. 23 Address to the Lieut.-Gov. Journal Assembly, 1829, Thursday, March 19. 24 Ibid. 25 Ibid. 26 Message, Journal Assembly, January 17, 1829. 27 Journal Assembly, 1830. 28 Ibid. Saturday Jan. 23. 29 Ibid. 30 Ibid, Thursday, February 4. 31 Journal Assembly, 1829, Address to the Governor, Thursday March 19. 32 Letter of Mr. Geo. R. R. Cockburn, published in the *Toronto Globe of Monday, Jan. 13, 1868*; published also in the *Toronto Leader* of a later date. This epistle, which has excited universal amusement as well as amusement, will form the subject of occasional reference throughout the present Statement.