

of feeling which characterized those discussions may be gathered from the public journals and debates of the Assembly from 1852 to 1860; but it will startle the Alumni to hear that it was at that time gravely laid down by a member of the Legislature, then high in the political circles of the day, that a superior education, or such as could be obtained at College, was quite unnecessary in New Brunswick—that in the history of the Province, the men who had got on the best were men of no education—and that, therefore, for all practical purposes, Institutions of the character of this University were not required, and their support from the public purse was consequently an improper waste of the public funds. In vain, at first, was it pointed out that the mismanagement of an Institution ought not to affect the principle involved in the maintenance and encouragement of superior education; that while it was the duty of the Legislature to reform the Institution, it was still more their imperative duty not to permit its mismanagement to operate to the sacrifice of the principle. The strenuous efforts of its friends at length prevailed, and in 1854, under an Act of the Legislature passed for the purpose, a Commission was appointed to “enquire into the (then) state of King’s College, its management and utility, with a view of improving the same, and rendering the Institution more generally useful, and of suggesting the best mode of effecting that desirable object; and should such Commission deem a suspension of the Charter desirable, then to suggest the best mode of applying the endowment, in the mean time, for the educational purposes of the Province.”

It is due to Sir Edmund Head, then the Lieutenant Governor of this Province—a most accomplished scholar and an untiring friend of education—to say that he took the warmest interest in maintaining the College, and in bringing about that reform which would make it acceptable to the people; and that by his suggestion Dr. Ryerson of Toronto, and Mr. Dawson, then of Nova Scotia—at present