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IN every discussion on the subject of College grants, it is to be assumed, as a position which is unchallengeable, that the government of Ontario must provide for Collegiate education at different points in the Province. It is committed to a legislation and an expenditure fully adequate to this end; for, to complete the existing system of Common and Grammar Schools, Colleges are necessary as the connecting link between the former and the University. The people throughout the Province, who by taxation are compelled to support the government and all public institutions, are entitled to as equal an enjoyment of privileges as can be afforded them. The *Globe* argues that the Colleges will not go down though the government grants be withdrawn—that the denominations interested in them are able and willing to maintain them. But it is not just to throw the whole burden of supporting them upon the denominations. It is intensely selfish to expect more of them than they are at present doing. It would be inexpressibly mean to take from them gratis what the country should pay for. A minority of the population get Collegiate education at Toronto for nothing, the country bearing the cost annually to the tune of at least \$40,000. University College accords with their views. Nobody questions their right to the convictions which they hold and agreeably to which their desires are gratified. But the majority have their rights too, and why should they not have their institutions also, especially when the class of institutions for which they contend can be proved to be as liberal in their management and as useful to the country as University College? If the Legislature will not assist the existing colleges it must *induce* others, if it will not accept a liberal co-operation,

it must incur the whole expense of erection and maintenance.

The alternative just stated, would be a necessary one were there an entire absence of legislation on the subject. But this is not the case; and the consequence of its not being the case, is, that the government is not under the necessity of putting up new institutions, but under the obligation of encouraging those which already exist. The University Act of 1853 is a standing testimony of governmental experience, convictions, and intentions. It begins by recording the failure of former attempts to incorporate existing colleges under one scheme; by making a distinct recognition of causes—such as, distance from Toronto, expense, anxiety on the part of parents and others in sending young men to a large city—as operating there and likely to continue to operate *against* the centralization of collegiate education, and *in favour of* academic institutions in different sections of the Province, and also, by declaring it to be *just and right*, that young men attending such institutions should have facilities for obtaining scholastic honours. That is to say, in 1853, the government of that day deliberately resolved that one college at Toronto was inadequate for superior education, and it acted at once creditably to itself and respectfully to the ascertained feelings of the people, by legislating on that basis in behalf of a system of colleges, not of a single institution.

But the magnificent pile of buildings since erected at Toronto, at a cost of \$100,000, with free tuition, opulent and numerous scholarships, residence for students, and other attractions, did not then exist, doing away with the necessity of outlying establishments. This is true. No one was then wild enough to dream of such lavish expenditure, or, as Sir G. E. Cartier once forcibly put it, such a preference of *construction to instruction*. But the