

in the County of Bathurst, which County he represented in the House of Assembly, (this friend was hostile to Doctor Ryerson), and Mr. Cameron substituted his friend's Bill and incorporated in it some of the clauses of the Chief Superintendent's Bill, so as to make it acceptable: The hostile Bill was passed, and was assented to by the Governor-General. As soon as Doctor Ryerson was aware of this, he wrote to Attorney-General Baldwin, expressing his strong objection to the Bill, as containing many ill-advised provisions, and being anti-Christian in its character, and stating, that, should the Bill go into operation, his "office would be placed at the disposal of the Government." Mr. Baldwin expressed his great regret that the burning of the Parliament House, and other matters had prevented him from being able to give attention to the subject; but that, as the Cameron Act did not go into operation until the next year, the Chief Superintendent was to administer the Act and Regulations then in force, until a new Act could be prepared and passed. The Cameron Bill, therefore, never went into operation. It is the only instance, so far as I know, of an Act passed by the Legislature, and having received the Royal Assent, being set aside, and not allowed to go into practical operation by order of the Executive Government.

By direction of Mr. Baldwin, the Chief Superintendent prepared a comprehensive School Bill, which was passed in 1850, and became, as Doctor Ryerson expressed it, "the Charter of the School System of Upper Canada."

The establishment of Grammar Schools, as given in these Volumes, dates as far back as 1797, when the Legislature of Upper Canada memorialized the King to make a Grant of the Crown Lands for the establishment of "Free Grammar Schools, and a College, or University." In reply to this Memorial, the Imperial Government decided to make the terms of the projected Grant much more liberal and extensive than those of the Memorial, and, in the words of the Despatch of the Colonial Minister, in reply, the Grant was made "for Free Grammar School in each District, and, in due course of time, for the establishment of other Seminaries of a larger and more comprehensive nature, for the promotion of religious and moral learning, and the study of the Arts and Sciences."

The Grammar Schools which were established under the authority of an Act of Parliament in 1809, in the terms of this Imperial Grant, were really superior private Schools under a new name. They were in effect, Schools for the children of the higher classes, and were almost solely patronized by them, and official persons.

Another class of very superior Preparatory Schools was established by the United Empire Loyalists in the chief centres of their settlements, such as Kingston, Cornwall, Bath, York, and St. Catharines. The most noted of these was the Bath Academy, taught by the Father of the Honourable M. S. Bidwell; the Grantham Academy at St. Catharines; and the Newburgh Academy. Then the noted School at Cornwall, taught by the Reverend Doctor Strachan, and afterwards the famous "Blue School" in York, taught by the same distinguished man. There had also been a superior private School previously established at York, and was taught by the Father of the Honourable Robert Baldwin; and the London District School taught by the Reverend George Ryerson, who was assisted, as Usher, by his more distinguished brother, the Reverend Egerton Ryerson.

The vicissitudes through which the University Question in Upper Canada has passed, from the time that Governor Simcoe projected a "Church University" in Upper Canada, to the last memorable contest on the question at Quebec in 1860, have been many and varied. The successive details of the history of this prolonged agitation are fully recorded in these Volumes. Through the active agency and efforts of Bishop Strachan, a Royal Charter was granted to King's College, Toronto, in 1827, although the College itself was not opened until 1843, and after Victoria and Queen's Colleges had been established, and were in active operation.

The terms of this Charter of King's College were very unacceptable to the majority of the people of Upper Canada, and led to active efforts to get it recalled, or modified. At length, a Bill to alter the objectionable terms of the Charter was introduced into