

dence of their approval by enrolling their sons to follow in their steps. Nothing in all the experience of a lifetime has tended to shake my faith in the superiority of a national, as compared with any denominational system; and above all, in a country where divisions have so multiplied among professing Christians, that denominationalism applied to education means, not a system, but a multiplication of organisations alike costly, conflicting, and inadequate for the objects aimed at. For such is the ever widening range of the sciences; and the growing comprehension of philology in its many-sided relations to ancient and modern, to cultured and to barbarous languages, that all the appliances of the best equipped Universities fall short of the demands of the age.

The system of national education which this College represents has proved no failure in Canada. We have gone on in healthful progress, in growing numbers, in advancing culture, in increasing requirements, in thoroughness and efficiency, through all the years since the Canadian Legislature emancipated this College from the mischievous constraints of a narrow denominational control; and so long as I am privileged to bear any part in it, I shall watch with jealousy every modification which threatens to rob it in any degree of its national, unsectarian character. Its influence on the denominational colleges of the Province has been confessedly beneficial, even when they were offering to it most persistent opposition. The distinguished scholar, Sir Edmund Head, to whose intelligent sympathy and aid, while Governor-General of Canada, we were largely indebted during some of the most critical years in the history of this Institution, not inaptly designated it "the College Militant!" It has successfully withstood assaults in which rivals who agreed in little else, conjoined to disparage and despoil it. I observe that the learned Chancellor of Victoria University, in his address at its last convocation, when commenting on religious teaching and influences as requisites assumed to be incompatible with a purely national system, remarked in all friendly apology for us: "I do not think the Senate, or the executive officers of the Provincial University can be justly blamed for the secular character of that institution. They have done what they could consistently with the constitution imposed on them by the Legislature." I give my friend Dr. Nelles, all credit for the good