

CONDITION OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS DURING THOSE TWENTY YEARS (1830-1850).

While resting for a moment at this period of the History of U. C. College, it may be advisable to see how that Institution had, during the first twenty years of its existence, affected the Grammar Schools. The diversion to U. C. College of the Royal Grants from the Grammar Schools at Kingston, Cornwall, and Niagara, fairly, for a time, prostrated them. Most energetically did the Kingston Board of Trustees protest against that shameful act of spoliation and most piteously did they represent its disastrous consequences on what had been a most flourishing School. In 1829, again in 1830, again in 1832, again in 1833 [123] do these faithful Trustees, with the late Venerable Archdeacon Stuart at their head, implore assistance. That highly-esteemed and most amiable minister had been the first Master of the Kingston Grammar School, [129] and was then Chairman of its Board of Trustees. In 1835 [130] the Trustees make a last appeal in a document which even at this distance of time, we can hardly read without emotion. They appeal to "His Excellency's sense of justice" in behalf of a District School which has been so much neglected at the "very time when an immense expense both in building and endowing U. C. College has been incurred." "In a very short time the present Schoolhouse will be altogether uninhabitable; and, unless funds are placed at the disposal of the Trustees, there will be absolutely no place in which the master can teach, unless he himself hire one at his own expense." But no relief came; the Kingston Grammar School fell into ruins; and had not the noble-minded Archdeacon surrendered, for the use of the pupils, *his own parlor*, the School would have been dispersed. The like fact is recorded regarding the Niagara School. This Grammar School which, in 1823-4, could boast an average attendance of 85 pupils,—among those pupils some of our most eminent practising lawyers at this hour,—[131] became, through the diversion, to U. C. College, of its grant, so reduced that it was, until quite recently, compelled to take shelter under the hospitable roof of its Headmaster! To the infinite credit of the Kingston Grammar School, and many of the others, it is on record that in those, the days of their direst adversity, they continued to dispense free instruction to a number of poor boys. [132] And herein how honorable to the Grammar Schools, the contrast between their conduct and that of U. C. College, whose first act it was, and whose unvarying policy it has since been to haughtily repulse from its door the sons of the poor! [133]

On the records of Parliament we find, during this period, many representations similar to that of the Kingston Trustees. In 1830 [134] the Gore

123 Reports of District Schools in Appendices to Journals Assembly, 1830, 1831, 1832-3, 1833-4.

129 "University Reform." Report of a Public Meeting held at Kingston, March 6, 1861. At this meeting the late Venerable Archdeacon stated that he had been "the Teacher of the first public Grammar School established in the City of Kingston."

130 Journal Assembly 1835, Appendix, vol. 2, pp. 11 sqq.

131 Journal Assembly 1828, Appendix.

132 Journal Assembly 1830, Appendix.

133 The Institution has occasionally (as in the case of the late D. Ryrie) for the purposes of advertising, conferred an Exhibition on a talented boy, whose University preparation has been already almost, or quite, completed in the County Grammar Schools. On this subject more will be said afterwards.

134 Journal Assembly 1830, Appendix.