

PARLIAMENT MAKES THE INCOMPETENCY OF U. C. COLLEGE THE SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATION.

The year 1832 witnessed such an outburst of popular indignation that the House of Assembly was compelled to make the incompetency of the new institution the subject of a searching investigation. [68] Among the witnesses examined before the Parliamentary Committee, were several of the Trustees. For it must be borne in mind that U. C. College commenced its career under a Board of thirteen Trustees. The Trustees would naturally palliate, so far as was possible, the inefficiency of an institution for whose faults they would, in a measure, be deemed responsible, but all that Dr. Strachan could find himself authorized to affirm was that some improvement was perceptible. [69] That some improvement was perceptible where so much ground for dissatisfaction had existed was, indeed, but faint commendation! Even the Vice-Principal of U. C. College himself thought the immediate re-establishment of the Home District School imperatively required. [70] After a long and laborious investigation the Committee in their 3rd Report [71] recommend that the appropriation from the Gr. S. Reserves, made by Sir John Colborne, be not recognized; that a loan of £10,000, which had been raised by illegal sale of the Grammar School lands be withdrawn from that institution and be invested in good securities for the benefit of the District Schools. The Committee comment severely on the advances which they discovered had been made to U. C. College out of the funds of King's College; and as the general result of their investigation the Committee state that U. C. College "does not seem to them to be necessary, and that it certainly was NEVER CONTEMPLATED BY HIS MAJESTY when granting a charter and endowment to the University." Finally, to obviate any pretence for the continued existence of U. C. College, they recommend the immediate opening of King's College. The above Report was adopted by the House without amendment, [72] and a Bill was framed to carry out the recommendations of the Committee. [73] but owing to the strenuous opposition of the Governor the matter was subsequently permitted to drop.

PARLIAMENTARY ADDRESS TO WILLIAM IV. ON THE SHAMEFUL MAL-APPROPRIATION OF THE GR. S. RESERVES.

The House of Assembly, early in the following Session, passed an Address [74] to King William IV., complaining in strong terms of the treatment to which the Grammar Schools had been subjected. After reciting the various misappropriations of the Grammar School Reserves the Address thus proceeds: "It is therefore obvious that a very incon-

68 Journal Assembly, 1832-3, App.

69 Ibid.—Dr. Strachan's answer to Question No. 10.

70 Journal Assembly, 1832-3, Appendix, page 67—Letter of Rev. Dr. Phillips, Vice-Principal of Upper Canada College.

71 Journal Assembly, 1832-3, Appendix, page 60.

72 Journal Assembly, 1832-3, Friday, January 18.

73 The Committee had in their 2nd Report (Appendix, page 58,) recommended similar measures. But since the preparation of their 2nd Report, evidence had come to light which convinced the Committee that the safety of the University depended on the immediate suppression of Upper Canada College. Hence the 3rd Report is, in the main, an emphatic reiteration of the Second. The Bill referred to was read for the first time on Friday, December 14, 1832.

74 Journal Assembly, Session 1833-4, Wednesday, December 4, 1833.