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THE *Dalhousie Gazette* does not appear to be at all pleased with the refusal of the Governors of Acadia and Mount Allison Colleges to discuss with the Governors of Dalhousie, the advisability of founding a central University for Nova Scotia. It gives vent to its displeasure in the following terms:—

"From Acadia and Mount Allison replies were received, very polite truly, but couched in the most chilling negative. We had, indeed, scarcely expected anything else, but our contempt for the display of narrow sectarian spite and bigotry is none the less on that account. Of course any other reply to the invitation was not to be hoped for. To possess a little College under one's own thumb, with a patent theologico-arts curriculum, adapted to the wants of fledgling ministers; to rear the bantlings of the Church in an atmosphere free from the remotest taint of unorthodoxy; to mingle disquisitions upon the true meaning of the terms 'pre-destination' and 'election,' or concerning the right interpretation of *baptizain*, with the other, and (in their estimation) less important work of a regular Arts curriculum; and last, but not least, to draw from the Provincial Treasury \$1400 per annum—all these are advantages too important to be sacrificed without a struggle."

The above words speak for themselves. The spirit that dictated them is too obvious to be misunderstood. And if they were not calculated to mislead the uninformed, we should not think it worth our while to notice them. But the charges insinuated are as false as the spirit they breathe is contemptible. It is not a little surprising that the Governors of Dalhousie asked for a conference which they did not expect to obtain. They could not surely have had much else to do, when they engaged in so fruitless an effort—an effort which they knew at the time would be fruitless. There are those, however, who think differently. Many believe that they really desired the authorities of the other colleges to treat with them, not so much from the benefit they wished to confer, as from that they hoped to receive. Instances have before occurred of weak and inefficient colleges seeking to better their condition and prospects by allying themselves in some way or other to superior institutions. Time was when Acadia would have been glad to unite with the other religious bodies of the Province in establishing on an equitable basis a central University. But the privilege was virtually denied them. With the recollection fresh in their minds of the treatment they received, when, for example, a person of eminent scholarship and rare teaching qualifications was considered ineligible to a Professorship in Dalhousie, simply because he was a Baptist; and in view of the progress they have made on the line of a broader and more liberal policy—a policy which other colleges have since been pleased to adopt, and sometimes with an air of boasting which would seek to confirm the impression that it is original with them,—in view of all this, it is doubtful if ever again they will be in a position to consider this question. Certain it is, they will not readily consent to play the part of a satellite, revolving around Dalhousie. To say the least, their regard for the order which prevails in the great system of things forbids it.

The *Gazette* is pleased to stigmatize Acadia as a *sectarian* and *denominational* college. We are free to admit that it is denominational in the sense of having a Board of Governors composed of persons belonging to the same religious persua-

sion. But it is not sectarian. No religious tests are imposed. Students of all religious beliefs are equally welcome. Its Governors would doubtless refuse to employ as a teacher a man of known heterodox views. They would hardly go as far as the Rev. Mr. Campbell, who asks, in his defense of the orthodoxy of one of the Dalhousie Professors, "what difference does it make what a Professor's Theological opinions are, so long as he is highly qualified to teach the branch or branches entrusted to him?" Many persons think it makes a great deal of difference, and would much prefer to place their sons under instructors not only intellectually proficient but "sound in the faith" as well.

To say nothing of public morals, and of the great religious principles by which all Christian countries are more or less influenced, it remains yet to be demonstrated that education itself is not as safe under denominational as under state control. Not a few of those who declaim against denominational colleges only thereby proclaim their ignorance of the whole question. We are sorry to see the friends of Dalhousie exhibit so much distress over the denominational element which predominates in its control. We consider this no reproach at all. We are only desirous of calling things by their right names, and cannot help pitying the affectation which persists in putting forward as a Provincial University that which the more sensible people know very well is simply a Presbyterian College.

The charge insinuated by the *Gazette* against Acadia that its curriculum is a "patent theologico-arts" one, is simply false. The Theological course is entirely separate from the regular arts course. Students pursuing the latter have nothing to do with the former—are not permitted or advised to engage in Theological studies till the regular arts course is completed. The result is that each course receives at the proper time its appropriate share of attention; and the product is neither "bantlings" nor "fledglings," but strong and symmetrically developed men—men capable of showing in "the right interpretation of *baptizein*" that they left the pin-feather state long ago.

It comes with a very ill grace from Dalhousie to speak of withdrawing the