

EDUCATIONAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, 1830.

On the 8th of January, 1830, His Excellency Sir John Colborne, the Lieutenant-Governor, opened the second Session of the Tenth Parliament of Upper Canada with the usual Speech from the Throne. (See page 292).

The members of the Council present during its Sessions were the Honourable John Beverley Robinson, Chief Justice, and the newly appointed Speaker; the Honourable and Venerable Archdeacon Strachan; the Honourable Messieurs. James Baby, William Dickson, William D. Powell (ex-Chief Justice), Joseph Wells, Duncan Cameron, George H. Markland, John H. Dunn, William Allan, Peter Robinson, John McGill, Charles Jones, George Crookshank and Sir William Campbell (ex-Chief Justice).

It will be noticed that at the opening of the Session the Legislative Council was very non-committal in its educational utterances, in response to the Lieutenant-Governor's opening speech. In fact, it would be difficult to ascertain from that response that the Governor had made any reference whatever to the proposed College, or to the projected University. As the Session progressed a better spirit prevailed; and the Reverend Doctor Strachan, true to his scholastic and educational instincts, broke the silence of the Council by proposing a comprehensive series of resolutions, highly appreciative of the energetic and practical proceedings of Sir John Colborne, in founding the "Minor" College, as the forerunner, and, in time, the great source of supply for the larger and more comprehensive Seminary yet to be established at the Capital of Upper Canada.

While the Legislative Council thus heartily endorsed the Lieutenant-Governor's action in founding Upper Canada College, it declined to entertain, or pass, the comprehensive Bill: "To Establish Upper Canada College," sent up to it by the House of Assembly. Upon examining the Bill, it was evidently found by the Members to be quite too comprehensive for the object aimed at, and its machinery too complicated for the purposes of a purely preparatory, or "Minor," College. The Bill was clearly not the kind of one intended to carry out the simple design of the Lieutenant-Governor to establish a preparatory College. No doubt the Bill was framed with a double purpose in view, viz.: (1) as a protest against the character of the King's College Charter; and (2) to put on record what the House of Assembly understood should be a non-exclusive and Provincial Institution. It was, however, a University Bill, pure and simple. It provided in the seventh section that the "College shall be deemed and taken to be an University, etc.," and it provided in other sections for a Chancellor, Professors, Tutors and all the usual officers of a University, and also for the taking of degrees in the several arts and faculties, etc. Such an hybrid institution was clearly not acceptable to the Council. Hence its Bill was rejected; and this rejection was commented on by the speakers at the public meeting held in York on the 10th of December, 1830. (See page 301.)