

PREFATORY NOTE TO THE SIXTEENTH VOLUME.

The first part of this Volume is devoted to a Report prepared by Doctor Ryerson on behalf of the Commissioners appointed by the Government of New Brunswick in 1854, to reconstruct the Educational System of that Province, and especially to reorganize King's College, Fredericton, in order to make it more useful, as well as more acceptable to the people of that Province. The Report is inserted in this Volume on account of its having been so frequently referred to and criticised by the University men, who took part in the Proceedings at Quebec before the Select Committee of the House of Assembly, on the University Question.

A large proportion of the remainder of the Volume is taken up with what may be regarded as the aftermath of the notable discussion which took place before this Select Committee in the early part of 1860. This renewed discussion on the University Question was caused by the publication, after the Committee had ceased to exist, of an elaborate joint Pamphlet, prepared by Vice-Chancellor Langton, representing the Senate of the University of Toronto, and Professor Doctor Daniel Wilson, representing University College. This Pamphlet contained not only the evidence given by these two gentlemen before the Select Committee, in a more extended form than that in which it was presented by them, but also embodied a series of elaborate Notes, impugning many of the Statements made by Doctor Ryerson, in his defence, before the Committee, of the Memorial of the Methodist Conference, against the proceedings of the Senate of the University of Toronto. In that Pamphlet, it was stated, in more than one form of impeachment, that Doctor Ryerson: "neither by previous education, by special training, or experience, nor by fidelity to the trust imposed in him, as a Member of the Senate of the University," did he "merit the confidence of this Committee, or of the Province, as a fit Adviser on a System of University Education."

Under these circumstances Doctor Ryerson felt compelled to reply to the aspersions thus cast upon him, as a Public Officer, in this joint Pamphlet. This he did in a series of five elaborate Letters, addressed to the Chairman of the late Select Committee. The Methodist Conference also organized a Scheme for a series of Public Meetings on the subject, which were held in various parts of the Province, and at which Resolutions were passed, and Memorials to the Legislature were adopted, protesting very strongly against the proceedings of the Senate of the University, and the alleged extravagant Expenditure of its funds. The Select Committee of the House of Assembly, which had been appointed to inquire into the question of University Administration, which had been impeached, having failed to report to the Legislature on the subject, the Government appointed a Commission to take evidence on the various charges which had been made against the University Senate and its financial proceedings, and to report to it fully upon the whole matter.