

TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF CANADA:

*The Memorial prepared by order and in behalf of the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada,**

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:—

That the Legislature in passing the Provincial University Act of 1853, clearly proposed and avowed a threefold object. *First*, the creation of a University for examining candidates, and conferring degrees in the Faculties of Arts, Law, and Medicine. *Secondly*, the establishment of an elevated curriculum of University education, conformable to that of the London University in England. *Thirdly*, the association with the Provincial University of the several colleges already established, and which might be established, in Upper Canada, with the Provincial University, the same as various colleges of different denominations in Great Britain and Ireland are affiliated to the London University,—placed as they are upon equal footing in regard to aid from the state, and on equal footing in regard to the composition of the Senate, and the appointment of examiners.

In the promotion of these objects the Conference and members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church cordially concurred; and at the first meeting after the passing of the University act, the Senatorial Board of Victoria College adopted the programme of collegiate studies established by the Senate of the London University, and referred to in the Canadian Statute. But it soon appeared that the Senate of the Toronto University, instead of giving effect to the liberal intentions of the Legislature, determined to identify the University with one college in contradistinction, and to the exclusion of all others, to establish a monopoly of senatorial power and public revenue for one college alone; so much so, that a majority of the legal quorum of the Senate now consists of the professors of one college, one of whom is invariably one of the two examiners of their own students, candidates for degrees, honors, and scholarships. The curriculum of the University studies, instead of being elevated and conformed to that of the London University, has been revised and changed three times since 1853, and reduced by options and otherwise below what it was formerly, and below what it is in the British Universities, and below what it is in the best colleges in the United States. The effect of this narrow and anti-liberal course, is, to build up one College at the expense of all others, to reduce the standard of a University degree in both Arts and Medicine below what it was before the passing of the University Act in 1853.

* The several propositions in this Memorial are proved and illustrated in the papers which follow.