

Here the majority prefer on conscientious grounds a system of education with which their peculiar religious views are so incorporated that we are necessarily excluded from its benefits. while the majorities in the other Provinces cannot justly be said to introduce their religious peculiarities into the schools in a similar manner. Our educational system exists in the presence of a purely denominational system, having all the aid and support given in other Provinces only to public schools properly so called. Here also the difficulties are increased by difference of language as well as of religion. This difference was recognized in the bill introduced by the Government in the last session of the Legislature, and I think we should firmly, but without any offensive imputation, insist on its recognition by the Local Legislature to as great an extent as may appear compatible with the united and harmonious working of our several school systems. In the last place, the guarantees of the Union Bill do not touch the peculiar wants of the Universities, and more especially of this University. It is much to be lamented that the Framers of this bill had not the courage to place all matters relating to University powers and privileges in the hands of the General Government and Legislature. Infinite mischief may result from conflicts of Local Legislation on this subject and from the tending to lower the standard of degrees, in consequence of local competition and a limited field of action. All our Universities should have been British American in the strictest sense, all their degrees of national value, all laws relating to the standard and legal estimation of those degrees of national extent. This is a question in which every University worthy of the name is interested, as well as every young man entering into professional life. The authorities of this University considered it their duty to urge very strongly their views in relation to it by petition and otherwise, but apparently without effect. I would now say to all our friends and graduates that no time should be lost in remedying this omission, if we would wish our country to be united and strong in one of its most important interests. In regard to the peculiar claims of this University in connection with the Royal Institution, and what I must characterize as the flagrant breach of faith on the part of both the Imperial and Canadian Governments in failing to fulfil the promises of endowments for the higher education made more than sixty years ago, and frequently renewed since, the Board has urged its claims again and again without effect: and now we regard the case as finally decided against us, for it cannot be supposed that the local government in its comparative poverty will assume debts, however just, which the Canadian and Imperial Governments have found it expedient to repudiate. I can only assure my friends that every possible effort has been made, and that the University has nobly and successfully struggled, without any public endowment, to make itself second to none in British America, and that we stand this day in a position to maintain and continue, with our own resources, the duties which we have undertaken. But for the purpose of further extension, and of meeting the growing wants of the country, we must rely on the benefactions of the wealthy friends of education in this country, whose kind assistance has not hitherto failed us. To sum up this matter—the present crisis demands the careful thought and united exertion of our public men as to the manner in which educational affairs shall be settled in the meeting of the local legislature; and as to the prevention of narrow and injurious local legislation with reference to University matters; and we are entering on a time when the kind solicitude and liberality of friends of education will be even more imperatively demanded than heretofore in sustaining our educational institutions. Should the proper spirit prevail in regard to these points, we can have no fears of ultimate success. For myself and the authorities of this University, I may say that we are animated by no selfish motives. From our point of view we can perceive the links that bind together the whole of our institutions of learning from the smallest common school to the University, and that unity of educational interest which in the higher aspect of the subject applies to our whole country, and overgoes all its diversity of races, creeds and local interests. We labour, therefore, to promote these high aims and that unity of action which can alone secure great results, and are ready for these ends to make any sacrifices, and to put forth any efforts that may be required of us.

The convocation met again, when degrees were conferred in Law and Medicine upon over sixty candidates.—*Daily News*.

— **NEW YORK RUTGERS FEMALE COLLEGE.**—A very interesting meeting was held on the 25th ult. at the Rutgers Female College, in Fifth-avenue, near Forty-second-street, being attended by a distinguished group of gentlemen connected with the educational systems of this country. The meeting was held in consequence of the Legislature of the State having recently conferred the powers and privileges of a college upon the Rutgers

Female Institute, which has for twenty-eight years past held a leading position in this City, as the Trustees were desirous to present their new plans of organization to friends of education from all parts of the country, in the hope of receiving their encouragement and approval. Chancellor FERRIS, LL.D., of the University of New-York, assumed the chair, and after appropriate prayer by Dr. TODD, he gave a brief, retrospective exhibit of the past progress of the Institute, and spoke of its remarkable success until it had reached the full growth of a college. Dr. FERRIS claimed for Rutgers College that it had introduced several new and most successful features into the education of the female mind. Following Dr. FERRIS, the President of Rutgers College, Dr. H. M. PIERCE, gave a short sketch of the future aim of the college in maturing the education of the students, from the infant class up to the first or graduating class. In doing so, Dr. PIERCE stated that two courses of education would be pursued, the scientific and literary, and by these means the various classes would be carried through the varied branches of study with greater freedom than heretofore. Prof. JAMES HYATT, being called upon by his principal to explain the details of the system, stated that the two courses of study would receive the same degree of attention and labor, both on the part of the pupil and the teacher. He explained that in future it was the intention of the alumni to gather the several departments under a competent head; in this manner drawing, painting, sculpture and sketching would be under the general direction of one superintendent. Dr. PIERCE, on resuming his remarks, stated that Prof. D. HUNTINGTON, President of the National Academy of Design, had consented to direct the Art Department, and he would be supported by a council of nine. A friend of the college had promised the institution the sum of \$20,000 for the endowment of this Art Department, on condition that \$30,000 additional be raised from other sources. Prof. B. N. MARTIN, D. D., of the New-York University, was called upon to address the meeting on the necessity of a classical element in a liberal education, but he deferred doing so, on the ground that there was no new feature and as his paper would be published. He was followed by CHAS. E. WEST, LL. D., who read a paper on mathematics in female education. Some interesting statements were made by Mr. D. MARTIN concerning the Home Department. Prof. HUNTINGTON discussed the features of the Art Department. After a discussion of the Bible element in liberal education, by Dr. HOWARD CROSBY, remarks commendatory of the proposed system were made by Prof. A. D. SMITH, President of Dartmouth College; Pres. HOPKINS, of Williams College; Pres. J. R. LOOMIS, of the University of Pennsylvania; Mr. J. GEORGE HODGINS, Deputy Superintendent of Education in Canada West; Chancellor PRYNE, Supt. RANDALL of New-York and others. The meeting was attended by a large number of ladies, who watched the proceedings with deep interest.—*N. Y. Times*

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CENTRAL CANADA.

THE Meeting of this Institute will take place AT KINGSTON, on Friday and Saturday, the 5th and 6th of July, 1867.

J. THORBURN, *President*.

OTTAWA, June, 1867.

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