

DOWNING STREET, 11th March, 1851.

MY LORD,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatches, Nos. 20 and 29, of the 3rd and 17th ultimo, in the former of which, you transmit the copy of a Correspondence which has recently passed between the Provincial Secretary and the Lord Bishop of Toronto, on the subject of the proposed establishment, by Royal Charter, of an University in Upper Canada, and in the latter a draft Charter, which the Bishop desires to substitute for the Charter submitted to me by His Lordship last year.

2. I understand from these Despatches, and the Correspondence they enclose, to all of which I have devoted a very careful consideration, that there is no objection, on the part of the Provincial Parliament and Government, to granting to the proposed Church of England College or University all the necessary powers of a Corporation to manage its own affairs, and also the power of granting Degrees in Divinity: but that it is considered advisable to endeavour to raise the value of Degrees in Arts, by confining the power of granting such degrees as nearly as possible to the University of Toronto, with which the separate Colleges of different denominations are in connection, as King's College and University College are with the London University in this country. It is not distinctly stated in your Lordship's Despatch, but it has been so explained to me by Dr. Ryerson, that this policy of confining the power of granting Degrees in Arts to the University of Toronto has been obstructed by the existence of Denominational Colleges having the power, under old Charters, of giving Degrees in Arts, but that the Provincial Government has been negotiating with these bodies for the surrender of their privilege, which has been obtained, except in two cases, referred to in the correspondence.

3. If I am correct in this understanding of the case, I have no hesitation in stating that it is clearly one in which the British Government ought not to interfere, to defeat, by the grant of a Royal Charter, the policy which is considered best for the Province by the Assembly, and by the Executive Council, which possesses the confidence of the Legislature. It appears to me, therefore, that there is no ground for the interference of the Imperial Government, and believing the local Government and Parliament to have no indisposition to deal justly by the Church of England, I consider it better that it should be left to them to determine on what terms the proposed College or University should be chartered, than that a Charter should be issued in this Country under Her Majesty's direct authority.

4. Your Lordship will have the goodness to communicate the substance of this answer to the Lord Bishop.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

The Right Hon.

The Earl of ELGIN and KINCARDINE.