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UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT.

Of the many vital questions which have arisen touching higher education in Ontario, none is more important and pressing than that of adequate, substantial endowment. To a visitor from England or the United States nothing can appear stranger or more anomalous than the general apathy of the wealthier class in this Province to the fortunes of its University and College. The benefactions which flow into the academic institutions of other countries are conspicuous with us by their absence. Elsewhere, either by gift or bequest, Colleges arise, or their usefulness is extended, under the magic touch of private munificence. The University of Toronto and University College, unhappily, are left to shift for themselves. We have only to turn to the history of University education elsewhere to be convinced of the extent of our shortcomings, and, if there be a spark of patriotism in us, to be ashamed of it. In England, even the older Universities, richly endowed as they were by the wise prescience of our forefathers, receive new life from private sources. Owen's College, at Manchester, the new Mison College at Birmingham, and others which will readily occur to the reader, are instances of what British liberality has done for higher education. In the United States, there are numerous examples of the same patriotic spirit. The John Hopkins' University, the Cornell University, the Vassar Female College, and others, were all founded and endowed by the wealth of private individuals. Nor does the matter rest there. There is hardly an institution of the kind in the United States without endowments of Chairs, Fellowships or Scholarships, from outside sources.

In Canada, a few gifts have fallen to the share of the Toronto University and College, bestowed by men connected with these institutions, or interested in them; but no generous liberality has yet gone the length of endowing a Chair, or subscribing a fund to place our provincial system of culture firmly upon its feet. Denominational institutions have appealed to those chiefly responsible for their maintenance, and their calls have been responded to with alacrity. Trinity, Victoria and Queen's Universities, especially, have been placed beyond all chance of failure. The Baptists, chiefly by the munificence of a Dominion Senator, have secured their College, and the list might be extended. Why is it that the institutions, which are peculiarly the whole people's, are not endowed on a substantial basis by the people? If the University and College were self-sustaining, as some men apparently expect them to be, the case would wear a different aspect; but they are not, and, in the nature of things, cannot be. On this point it may not be out of place to quote from an address delivered before the Educational Association of Virginia, by President Dreher, of Roanoke College. The pertinency of the quotation will be evident when it is mentioned that the condition of higher education in the South much resembles that of Ontario, at least so far as the provincial establishments are concerned. There as here, the State Colleges and Universities were endowed by the State once for all, and, when expansion is required, they can only look for relief to voluntary assistance. The President puts the matter thus, plainly:—"As no College can, by charging reasonable fees, have a sufficient income to support an adequate number of competent professors, meet current expenses, and make improvements, rendered necessary by general educational progress, it follows that an endowment fund is essential to the efficiency and permanency of a literary institution. . . . The experience of centuries teaches that to this form of relief and support, every College, worthy of the name, must come at last."

Now, how stands the case as regards the University of Tor-

onto and University College? There is no useful purpose to be served by concealing facts, and, therefore, it may be plainly and distinctly stated that what is left of the endowment is not sufficient to maintain these institutions without aid from outside. Of course, it may be urged that the endowment was originally ample; so it was. But there are some important considerations not to be overlooked. No institution has suffered more from political manipulation than the Provincial University. For many a long year it was under the harrow, and suffered alternately from its friends and from its enemies. When finally the institution was settled upon the existing basis, although it could boast of a name, it had no local habitation. Sent from the Park to the Parliament Buildings, and thence to the Park again, where it was housed in two separate edifices, our Alma Mater had no rest for the sole of her foot. For a long time the University seemed to be the missing link between politics and insanity, for the buildings occupied had been sacred either before or afterwards to one or both.

The new buildings were erected almost by stealth, lest the foes of the University should agitate for a suspension of the works. As the Rev. Dr. McCaul remarked, when the coping-stone was raised, there had been no laying of the foundation-stone. Like the first temple, he observed, though for a different reason, this magnificent building of stone was silently reared, so that it might almost have been said, "that there was neither hammer nor axe, nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building." Meanwhile, the vicissitudes of fortune through which the University had passed told upon it. When the writer, matriculated in Arts, he was one of only thirteen. All this time the professional staff, the apparatus and library were kept up, whilst the fees were a mere trifle.

And, now, when the storm has passed, and sunshine pours down upon its head; when the popularity of the University is permanently established and the number of students in the College has increased beyond the most sanguine hopes of by-gone years, the institution finds in its crippled resources the result of struggles past and overcome. With its growth in popularity and success, the machinery of the College has not advanced. The Faculty should be enlarged, the library and museums extended, and the apparatus made more and more adequate to the exigencies of the age. Where are those who feel an interest in culture to look for relief if not to the people? The University is not a factory, applying for a bonus, nor a concern of any other description established to make money for its managers. It exists purely for the benefit of the people, for their children and their children's children, to the remotest generation, and, therefore, should be generously and liberally endowed by the people.

It may be said that the Government of the Province should come to its aid. The Government has supplemented its income in various ways, and there is no justice in the charge of parsimony made against them. But there is every objection to the plan of legislative grants. In the first place, there is a plausible objection against the theory upon which these grants are based, and, in the next place, there is the insuperable objection that they are unstable and precarious, and that of necessity. The University and College, if they are to be permanently assured of a fixed income, must not depend upon the hazard of an election, or the changeful temper of a legislature. What is wanted is an endowment fund, subscribed by the wealthy—and there are many of them all over the Province—for the benefit of their fellows and for an unborn posterity. No nobler channel for private liberality could be found than this. The man who endows a Chair in Uni-