

# A PLEA FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT TO DENOMINATIONAL COLLEGES.

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## FIRST PAPER.

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These papers are issued under the authority of the Board of Trustees of Queen's College. Therefore some of their statements relate specially to that Institution. The general argument, however, is applicable to other Colleges in Ontario. It is conceived that on such grounds as the following the people may justly and firmly urge the continuance of legislative aid.

### I. THE NEED AND ADVANTAGE OF A NUMBER OF COLLEGES.

From its vast extent of populated territory the Province requires sectional Colleges. Wherever superior education has become a national benefit, the result is traceable to a diversity of such Institutions. The advantage of this arrangement is enjoyed by all the advanced nations of Europe. There is probably no country which would suffer more from the inconvenience of having but one College than this part of Canada. To confine the means of Collegiate education to one place is, to a large extent, to impair their efficiency and defeat their end. It limits to a few what should be accessible to all. It centralizes in a locality what should be diffused throughout the land. It creates a monopoly where distribution should prevail. In education, far more than in commerce, a generous competition is of paramount importance. By the analogy of public policy in other departments, it is clearly the duty of the Government to provide every facility for a wholesome rivalry. If, then, one College at Toronto is to be the sole object of Governmental concern and support, the result must be a most impolitic and hurtful monopoly.