

ments at their disposal, have constructed a system based on the most unsatisfactory type of University education in England, viz., that of the University of London. This University never contemplated taking the high position of the old English Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. It never professed to give a high academic tone to the youths who receive its diplomas. It was a misnomer to call it a University, as its functions are simply those of a Board of Examination,—as in the case of those Boards recently organized for the examination of candidates for appointments in the public service, or the district Boards of Examiners in this Province, for the examination of schoolmasters. It exacts no academic training, and confers its degrees simply on the grounds of knowledge. It may, at first sight, appear that if a man has knowledge, it does not matter how it has been acquired. This is true if it is mere knowledge alone that is required. But there is something better than the mere possession of knowledge. Mental culture—the training of the faculties to proper action and academic discipline are objects of higher import in the education of the young. A student's future success in life depends not so much on the knowledge he has acquired as on the way in which it has been acquired. And knowledge may be acquired in such a way as permanently to injure the mental faculties and habits of the young. There could not be a more ingenious device for dwarfing the intellect and producing inferior men than this system of cramming fostered by the University of London as a cheap substitute for real education. I say it is deeply to be regretted that the Government of this country, instead of going to the long-tried Universities of Britain for a model, should have gone to the University of London, the very embodiment of superficiality. The people of Canada asked bread, and payed dearly for it too; they wanted that real education that nurtures greatness; but for bread they received a stone—a mere superficial resemblance to the real article. Queen's College has always occupied a position of protest against this system, though a title of affiliation was granted by statute. Were we to affiliate, the genuine degrees granted by this University would be put on a level with the paper degrees granted by the Central Board, which do not necessarily imply college training. It has protested in the conviction that the position thus taken may have some weight in leading the people of Canada to demand a reconstruction of the whole system, by which the ample revenues set apart for the purpose may be appropriated to their rightful use. I have made these remarks to explain the basis on which the law faculty is constructed. It was quite in our power to grant degrees in law, as is done in Toronto under the University arrangements of the Government, without any law education whatever. We might simply ask the students in law to come and pass an examination at the College, and to confer upon them the degree of LL.B., entitling them to have their indentures shortened by two years; and this alternative was considered by the Bar of Kingston; but it was rightly regarded as an evasion of the statute, which, in spirit at least, required that the students should receive a *bona fide* education in law, and not merely pass an examination which they would at any rate have to pass before the Law Society. To the honour of the Bar of Kingston, they would not countenance such an evasion. But how was the faculty to be established? We had no surplus revenue—we had not the public purse to dip into. The difficulty was at once solved by the Bar of Kingston coming generously forward to supply both the men and the means. No better guarantee for the need and usefulness of a law faculty could be given than this spontaneous action of the legal gentlemen of Kingston. And I may observe, that this spontaneous action should be the basis of Government action. The rise of this institution is a good example of what the people can do for themselves; and I hold that the best principle on which State assistance can be given, is to aid only those who manifest sufficient educational life to aid themselves. The great academic institutions of Britain sprung directly from the educational life of the people. All that the State did was to foster the vitality already manifested. It is those institutions alone that have struck their roots deep in the soil. When Government thrust artificial systems on a country, simply by the force of the public money, and irrespective of all voluntary action, they never thrive. It is the duty of Government to leave the higher as well as the common school education to the people themselves, and to content themselves with aiding institutions on which the people have put their *imprimatur*. We acted upon this principle in founding the faculty of law. We did not first go to Government and say, Queen's College requires the establishment of the faculty of law to complete her organization; give us funds and we shall set about the work. No! we resolved first to construct the faculty, and, if the State chooses to bestow favours,

we shall gratefully accept them, but we decline making our existence depend on its fiat. The advantages of such a faculty to young men studying for the bar are very obvious. There is no profession so capable of deriving advantage from academic training. There is no study more bewildering than that of law, unless the student has a guide. I need not say that the instruction will not be confined merely to reading formal lectures, a system which is now exploded in all the faculties. The tuition will chiefly consist in directing the private study of the students, and examining upon the books read. It is proposed also to train the students to oral discussion, which will have a most important bearing upon their future success at the bar. The united education of law students at college, will also cherish an *esprit de corps* which they will find of advantage in their future career. The direct advantage arising from a course of law study here, is, that the student, if he takes a degree before he is articulated, will require to be articulated only for three years instead of five. It is reasonable also to expect that the Legislature will allow the lectures here to stand for the mere formal course given at Osgoode Hall, to attend which students have to be put to much expense. From this statement you will perceive that the establishment of this faculty is altogether due to the liberality and public spirit of the Bar at Kingston, who have this day honoured the University with their presence. I beg therefore to propose a hearty vote of thanks to that learned body, for the interest they have manifested and the exertions they have made for the establishment of the faculty of law.

A cordial vote of thanks was accordingly accorded to the Bar of Kingston.

Mr. Kirkpatrick rose to acknowledge, on the part of the Bar, the compliment that had been paid them by the united University. Principal Leitch, he said, when he came among them to preside over Queen's College, found that, while the institution had made great advances, and was doing good in various departments, it was yet deficient in one respect,—there was no law faculty. He communicated with the members of the Bar, and, after full consideration, it was agreed by the University authorities that a law faculty should be established. The question was,—Should examinations be instituted and degrees granted on the strength of these; or, shall there be law-teaching to qualify for a degree? There was a strong temptation to yield for the former course, and form a faculty without lectures, for the trouble would not be great, and the University would not be put to extra expense. But the University authorities had said to themselves,—We shall have no sham degrees; we must provide the means of affording knowledge and training before granting degrees: and the Bar agreed with them in this. The result has been that the University has received the support of the Bar in their attempt to elevate the standard of legal training, and the Bar have afforded the means of practically carrying it out. The Bar of Kingston has ever held a high place in Canada, and it feels gratified that this step has been taken, not only because it will facilitate the acquisition of legal knowledge, but also because it will serve as a bond of union between the University and the Bar. We have, he said, looked on at the progress of this University from year to year with much interest. Its success has been great; and, as its faculties have been from time to time increased, its whole organization has become strengthened,—for “Union is strength.” We see to-day the only remaining blank filled up; a law faculty has been instituted, and it will unite with others in giving stability to the whole. We are proud, therefore, to give our aid on this occasion in completing the organization of an educational institution of so great importance to the welfare of our country.

The Rev. Principal pronounced the benediction.—*Presbyterian*.

—FREE SCHOOLS IN NIAGARA.—At a meeting of Common School Trustees for the Town of Niagara, held on Monday evening the 11th of March, it was agreed to make the Schools in the Town free for the present year, and in order to secure a full and regular attendance the following resolution was passed: *Resolved*.—That in order to secure a more regular attendance of children at the Common Schools of this Town, it is hereby decided that children absenting themselves from School for ten consecutive days or attending irregularly without giving the teacher a sufficient or reasonable excuse, it shall be the duty of the Teacher to dismiss such child, and give such notice to the Superintendent, and in no case shall the child be re-admitted, except through an application to the Trustees, and that a copy hereof be published in the *Mail* newspaper, and read once in each Common School.

—CANADIAN LITERARY INSTITUTE.—It will be remembered that, in January last, the building of the Canadian Literary Institute, at Woodstock, was destroyed by fire. The trustees are now making every effort to rebuild the premises during the present year, and appeal to the friends