

TO REV. E. M. SAUNDERS, D.D., REV. A. W. SAWYER, D.D., HON.
D. McN PARKER, M D., D. C. L., B. H. EATON, Esq., Q. C.,
Committee of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces.

DEAR BRETHREN :

Your communication addressed to the Faculty, Senate and Trustees of Toronto Baptist College, has had careful consideration from each of these bodies. We regret exceedingly that any occasion has arisen to cloud the prospect of the complete co-operation of Baptists in all parts of the Dominion, so happily inaugurated in 1883. But we are very confident that explanations which we most cheerfully give, will show that there has not been, on the part of the authorities of this College, the least intention to introduce any system which can prejudice the interests of Ministerial or Literary Education in any part of the Dominion. Though your committee was appointed for the purpose of "Conferring with the Trustees of Toronto Baptist College, to obtain all necessary information with respect to the nature and tendency of our affiliation with the University of Toronto," we do not object that you have called our attention to a variety of other matters which do not seem to be covered by the terms of the resolution appointing the Committee.

The greater part of your communication is occupied in giving in detail the official documents relating to our union in Theological Education. As we have reviewed the documents quoted, we have had great satisfaction in knowing that the scheme outlined by Drs. Castle and MacVicar at Halifax, in 1883, has been literally carried out, so far as it has depended on the authorities of Toronto Baptist College. The scheme alludes to some things which were within the sole control of the promoters of education in the Maritime Provinces, and with these we have not interfered. It does not promise that either the Founder or Trustees of this College shall establish an Arts College in the North West. It merely alludes to such an Institution, which the brethren in the North West are expected to promote, inasmuch as they had already for some time good and sufficient to themselves closed Prairie College. Your communication seems to imply that we undertook the responsibility of founding an Arts College in the North West. Nothing was further from our thoughts, though we shall abundantly rejoice when our brethren there are in a position to promote higher education, and as individuals we may be relied on for the same practical sympathy which our brethren at large shall manifest in the cause.

If we have understood your communication, we may conveniently group your inquiries and grievances into the two following classes :—

1. Our affiliation with a State Institution, the University of Toronto. If you supposed that by this action we were departing from settled Baptist convictions in regard to absolute separation of