

the assurance of many ladies that they will not attend lectures; and of others of mature years, that they would not entertain the idea of their daughters entering as students, at a college where they must be thrown into more or less familiar intercourse with between three and four hundred young men. I have also the assurance of parents that they will hesitate to send their sons to a college where they are thrown into such intimate relations, as fellow-students, with strangers of the other sex.

I have thus endeavoured to lay before you the grounds of my objection to the introduction of co-education at University College. The institution has progressed hitherto with gratifying success, and is now universally recognized as an educational institution worthily fulfilling the purposes for which the fathers of this country, with wise providence, set apart a portion of the public domain, while Western Canada was still an uncleared wilderness. I cannot imagine that the Legislature and the Executive Council of Ontario will hastily concur in subjecting the Provincial College to an experiment, the results of which are viewed so differently by men of long experience and eminent standing as educationalists. I still entertain the hope that the Attorney-General will recognise the expediency of referring the whole subject to a select committee, or to a commission entrusted with the duty of obtaining thorough information to guide the Government and the Legislature in their final decision.

The question is one of the gravest importance in the whole issues which it involves; and in so far as I can judge from the reported debates in the Legislative Assembly, it is still an open question with the Government. Speaking apparently not as Minister of Education, but simply in your capacity as a member of the Legislature; and as though the final decision rested, not with the Government, but with me, you are reported to have said:—

“He (Mr. G. W. Ross) was convinced that when President Wilson knew that the sentiment of all the educators of the country was in favour of these privileges being given to women he would withdraw his opposition. He was speaking for himself only. His sympathies were in favour of the higher education of women. He would be willing to support an appropriation to enable them to acquire that, and he would do so on public grounds. As far