

APPEAL

Of the undersigned **MINISTERS** of the City of Montreal, to the **PEOPLE OF CANADA**, on the **PRESENT STATE** and **PROSPECTS** of the **UNIVERSITIES** and **COLLEGES** in **British North America**, established by **ROYAL CHARTER**, and supported by **PUBLIC FUNDS**.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,

We, the undersigned Ministers of Montreal, in pursuance of the important object which formed the ground of our late Memorial to the Governor General, which has been published in all the journals of this city, have felt it our duty, respectfully but earnestly, to call your attention to the peculiar condition of our higher Seminaries of Education, and to the imminent danger, if they are to be established and conducted under such auspices as the present, of the introduction of a sectarian spirit into their system of government and discipline.

We regard the subject of our present Appeal as one of paramount importance to this, and indeed to all the Colonies of Great Britain.

We had hoped, that after the settlement of the long agitated question of the Clergy Lands, we should not have been compelled, at least at so early a period, to protest against a course of proceeding in a matter of deep and universal interest to the present and to future generations in this Colony, calculated, as we fear, to revive the jealousies, and to renew the dissensions which appeared to have been happily set at rest.

We shall now submit with the utmost candour and frankness, without any reserve or extenuation, the grounds of our dissatisfaction and alarm in the course which, it seems, is now proposed to be followed out in the immediate organization of King's College, Toronto, and of M'Gill College, Montreal, and in the appointment, by the present Governors, of the professors of the most important branches of Academic Education.

While it is certainly desirable that these institutions should be called into active operation, with all convenient speed, we humbly conceive that it is of infinitely greater moment that nothing should be done with precipitation, or to suit the views and interests of a sect or party; that it is due to this great and enlightened country, and indispensably necessary to the credit and prosperity of these institutions, that they be commenced under the most favourable auspices, and if possible, without even the appearance or suspicion of a party or sectarian bias, that they may command the general confidence and approbation of the community, whose property they are, for whose benefit they have been professedly founded and endowed, and by whom they must in future be supported.

The fact, that they have been erected by Royal Charter, can in no respect, we conceive, alter the unquestionable right of the community to exact the utmost responsibility

from those who are charged with their organization and government, since it is not for a moment to be presumed that Her Majesty can have any other interest or desire, as a faithful trustee for behoof of all classes of her subjects in the Colony, than to render them, in the highest possible degree, acceptable to the whole community, and effective of their destined ends.

It has been asked, of what do we complain? Our prompt and decisive answer has been, and we adhere to it, thinking it neither irrelevant nor frivolous, that we have not confidence in those who have had, and, we believe, still hold the entire management of these institutions, with what responsibility or under what check we know not, and we presume the public are generally as ignorant as we are.

And why, it may be asked, have you not confidence in them? We answer with equal frankness, because some of them, at least, have avowed principles which must utterly deprive them of the confidence of all Protestants who do not hold that the Church of England has very peculiar and exclusive rights, of which she cannot be divested; and, if we believe them to be conscientious and honest in the principles which they profess, and in which they glory, we cannot say less, than that we deem them to be peculiarly unworthy of the confidence of the great body of Protestants of other denominations, as well as of the liberal and catholic minded Protestants of their own communion.

We emphatically proclaim our conviction, that men of this spirit and of these principles are the last to be entrusted, in such a country as this, with the control of education in any of its departments—least of all in the highest.

Are we asked for the proof? We appeal to their recorded language and proceedings throughout the lengthened struggle which distracted this Colony, and threatened to sever the bond of union with the Parent Country, until the late auspicious era, which has restored peace and unity, by depriving them of power, and by denouncing their principles.

Can we be expected to give our confidence to men whose principles place them in decided opposition to all Protestants who are without the pale of the Church of England, who denounce as schismatics or heretics, and scruple not to unchurch, all who do not subscribe to their notions of the exclusive Apostolic origin and character of their own sect?

To their peculiar tenets, ecclesiastical and religious, we should not have adverted, on this occasion, were it not necessary to expose the impolicy of putting into such hands the great interests of education in the Colony, and the utter unreasonableness of expecting that such institutions shall