

mutilation they impugn the motives and proceedings of the Conference,—an unfairness and dishonesty such as could hardly be exceeded by the Jesuitism which they profusely denounce, or by any reckless print of political party. In another part of the *Montreal Witness*, the Methodist plan of giving public aid to colleges is objected to, because “the youths trained in such a State-endowed institution are likely to acquire a deep rooted predilection for governmental patronage!” The colleges and academies in the State of New York, denominational or otherwise, receive State aid according to their works; but is there an American so idiotic as to say that youths educated in such institutions thereby become the sycophants of Government? Our Grammar and Common Schools are all endowed to some extent by the State; but are the youths educated in them thus corrupted by State patronage? Or would the youth be more corrupted, if the schools were endowed by the State to twice the extent they now are? It requires such sages as the *Toronto Messenger* and *Montreal Witness* to see State corruption instead of national civilization, in this system. And singular to say; these very partizans advocate the State endowment of one college independent of all voluntary effort whatever, and that all the liberally educated youth of Upper Canada shall obtain their education at the “State-endowed institution!” Thus the common sense and consistency of the *Messenger* and *Witness* in argument are on a par with their fairness in statement in their onslaught upon the Conference.

The Methodist plan is to place aid to colleges upon the same footing as aid to common schools—each institution aided, not by the patronage or at the pleasure of any political man or party, but upon defined principles of law, according to the average attendance of pupils in prescribed branches of education; so that the religious denominations would be encouraged to become co-workers with the State and with each other in educating the country, and be no more dependent on party or government than are the trustees and supporters of any common school. The *Messenger* and *Witness* must know, that with the London University are affiliated not merely institutions popularly colleges, but such as are designated academies, seminaries, institutes, and even schools—each of which is as legally and fully recognized as is the University or King’s College in London. By the Methodist plan, the University endowment would be just as much increased by the development of individual, municipal and denominational effort, and the corresponding diffusion of superior education, as is the Legislative Common School Grant increased by local effort and the diffusion of common school education. But such a system of comprehension and expansion transcends the contracted vision of Toronto mo-