

the best colleges in the United States. We must at once confess that some of those options, especially that which concerns the French language deemed indispensable in all other countries to a complete classical education, and which is moreover that of nearly one half of the population of Canada, appear objectionable. Last though not least the memorial complains of the large amount expended on buildings far beyond the wants of several generations to come and with, it is said, the hardly disguised object of preventing the accumulation of any surplus for the general promotion of academical education as contemplated and specifically directed by the Statute.

The following is the conclusion :

" We therefore pray your Honorable House, to cause an investigation to be instituted into the manner in which the University Act has been administered, and the funds of the University and Upper Canada College have been expended, the immense advantage and benefits to the country of several composing colleges over the deadening and wasteful monopoly of one College ; and cause an act to be passed by which all the Colleges now established, or which may be established in Upper Canada, may be placed upon equal footing in regard to public aid, either as so many co-ordinate University Colleges, or (which we think the best system), as so many Colleges of one University."

It was obvious that such a move on the part of the Wesleyan Conference would subject them to a reproach of inconsistency in so far as they had always been the greatest supporters of the National or Common school system and of what is termed in this country *non-sectarian* education.

The *Globe* of Toronto and the *Montreal Witness*, who on such matters represent the views of the extreme anti catholic party chiefly composed of members of the Free church of Scotland, Baptists, &c., have not failed to seize on that formidable weapon and have even accused the Wesleyan scheme of being favorable to Catholicity and to the endowment of clerical institutions. The charge is met as follows by the Conference :

" We also disclaim any sympathy with the motives and objects which have been attributed by the advocates of Toronto College monopoly, in relation to our National School system. The fact that a member of our own body has been permitted by the annual approbation of the Conference to devote himself to the establishment and extension of our school system, is ample proof of our approval of that system: in addition to which we have from time to time expressed our cordial support of it by formal resolutions, and by the testimony and example of our more than four hundred ministers throughout the Province. No religious community in Upper Canada has, therefore, given so direct and effective support to the National School system as the Wesleyan community. But we have ever maintained, and we submit, that the same interests of general education for all classes which require the maintenance of the elementary school system require a reform in our University system in order to place it upon a foundation equally comprehensive and impartial, and not to be the patron and mouthpiece of one college alone ; and the same consideration of fitness, economy, and patriotism which justify the State in co-operating with each school municipality to support a day school, require it to co-operate with each religious persuasion, according to its own educational works, to support a college. The experience of all Protestant countries shows that it is, and has been, as much the province of a religious persuasion

to establish a college, as it is for a school municipality to establish a day school ; and the same experience shows that, while pastoral and parental care can be exercised for the religious instruction of children residing at home and attending a day school, that care cannot be exercised over youth residing away from home and pursuing their higher education except in a college where the pastoral and parental care can be daily combined. We hold that the highest interests of the country, as of an individual, are its religious and moral interests ; and we believe there can be no heavier blow dealt out against those religious and moral interests, than for the youth of a country destined to receive the best literary education, to be placed, during the most eventful years of that educational course, without the pale of daily parental and pastoral instruction and oversight. The results of such a system must, sooner or later, sap the religious and moral foundation of society. For such is the tendency of our nature, that with all the appliances of religious instructions and ceaseless care by the parent and pastor, they are not always successful in counteracting evil propensities and temptations ; and therefore from a system which involves the withdrawal or absence of all such influences for years at a period when youthful passions are strongest and youthful temptations most powerful, we cannot but entertain painful apprehensions. Many a parent would deem it his duty to leave his son without the advantages of a liberal education, rather than thus expose him to the danger of moral shipwreck in its acquirement."

We also direct the attention of our readers to the following extract from the pamphlet published in support of the *Memorial*.

" It is also objected that the system we advocate endows Roman Catholic Seminaries. The objectors who urge this objection omit two things. They omit to say that the principle they advocate involves the equity, and no doubt in short time the necessity of employing Roman Catholic Professors, as well as Protestant, in their College, which is avowedly founded upon the principle of equal justice to all parties. Have not the Roman Catholic as good a right to a representation in the professorships and teachings of the University College as the Protestants? And will they not claim it? And can they be refused it? The objectors likewise omit to say that under the present system—and notwithstanding all that certain parties have said or pretended to say, it has increased the last ten years, and will doubtless continue to increase—the Roman Catholics have already grants to three Colleges in Upper Canada. Now we ask the objectors themselves whether it is not better to place such institutions upon the same footing with others—upon the ground of *work*—and not upon that of Church interference ; and of work, too, in subjects common to both Protestants and Roman Catholics? And can they deny that the Roman Catholic is a man and a British subject, and has rights as such as well as themselves, whatever may be his errors? We cannot omit adding, how oddly this objection comes from those who are known to have courted alliance with that very section of the Roman Catholics who are the most ultra and exacting in regard to education as well as public offices."

An inquiry was instituted during the last session of Parliament in conformity with the request of the petitioners ; the Hon. Malcolm Cameron took, in the Legislative Assembly, the lead in the matter and the Superintendent of public instruction for Upper Canada, the Rev. Dr. Ryerson ; J. Langton, Esquire, Vice-Chancellor of the University, and other competent persons were examined before the Committee. The subjects at issue remain yet