

UNIVERSITY QUESTION : DR. RYERSON'S DEFENCE, &c.,

IN

REPLY TO DR. WILSON AND MR. LANGTON,

Wednesday, 25th April, 1860.

COMMITTEE MET.

Present :

The Honorable MALCOLM CAMERON, Chairman.

“ Mr. CAYLEY,
“ “ FOLEY,
“ “ McCANN,
“ “ ROBLIN,
“ “ SIMPSON,
“ “ WILSON.

The Reverends Messrs. *Cook, Ryerson, Stinson, Nelles and Poole* were in attendance.

John Langton, Esquire, Vice Chancellor, and Professor *Wilson* of University of Toronto, were in attendance.

Dr. RYERSON'S Reply to Dr. WILSON and Mr. LANGTON'S Statements.

Dr. Ryerson addressed the Chairman and Committee as follows :—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I am quite aware of the disadvantage under which I appear before you to-day. I am not insensible of the prejudices which may have been excited in the minds of many individuals by the occurrences of the last few days ; I am not insensible of the impressions which some of the questions and statements may have made upon the minds of Members of the Committee as well as others ; I am not at all insensible of the fact that the attempt has been made to turn the issue, not on the great question which demands attention, but upon my merits or demerits, my standing as a man, and the course which I have pursued. This subject, of very little importance to the Committee, of comparatively little importance to the country, possesses a great deal of importance to myself. No man can stand in the presence of the Representatives of the People ; no man can stand, as I feel myself standing this morning, not merely in the presence of a Committee, but, as it were, in the presence of my native country, the land of my birth, affections, labors, hopes, without experiencing the deepest emotion. But how much more is that the case when attempts have been made, of the most unprecedented kind, to deprive me of all that is dear to me as a man, as a parent, as a public officer, as a minister of the Christian Church. More especially do I thus feel, because reading and arranging the papers on this subject, to which my attention has been called, occupied me until five o'clock this morning. Rising to address you under such circumstances and emotions, I respectfully crave the impartial consideration of the Committee and throw myself on their generous indulgence.