

elected by the people, he would be an agent to purchase or import—a friend ever ready to advise. He could effect exchanges of books between different districts—so, that if a county possessed 5000 volumes, each district in it could have access to the whole. The elevation of our teachers in the general scale of society is another topic, to which, at the risk of being tedious, I feel it my duty to call the attention of the committee. To pay them efficiently is a first step, but we must give them a pride in their art and end at their combined co-operation. We must learn to consult them—to care for—to promote them. I would assemble once a year at least all the teachers of a county in the shire town, and let them discuss the subject of education, and report their suggestions and advice for the guidance of the Executive and the Legislature. This would make them acquainted with each other, and with each others' modes of teaching—it would excite an honorable pride and a spirit of generous emulation. And who can doubt that many valuable suggestions would emanate from these meetings? I would reserve one or two county offices, in the gift of the Executive, as the rewards of long and meritorious service in the noble art of instructing the young. On such topics as this there can be no serious disagreement here. But, Sir, there is another branch of this subject that well deserves, as it may well repay, our grave and united deliberations. In 1841, I proposed to the Assembly to found Free schools for universal education over the length and breadth of the province. Had that proposition been adopted there would not have been at this moment an uneducated child within it. A respectable minority voted with me on that occasion. But a majority, fearful of the reaction of ignorance, rejected the proposition. Circumstances were not propitious when the School Act was revised in 1845—but, if we are united, may we not carry this vast improvement now? The property, real and personal, upon the surface of Nova Scotia, is estimated at £15,000,000—One per cent on this amount would give £150,000. But we require no such sum. We now pay about £12,000 from the treasury, and the people pay about twice as much more—in all perhaps £15,000, or less than 5s. on the £100 of all we possess; and this amount educates more than half our youth. Double it; raise the per centage to 10s. on the £100, and free schools would be provided for every child in Nova Scotia. We may not venture to take this bold step, but sure I am that we may discuss the subject amicably and to infinite advantage. But suppose this proposition to be put aside, may we not largely augment our school fund by a simple process without pressing hardly upon any portion of our population?—Can we not, by a slight tax on property, descending by legacy and inheritance, create, in every county, a fund which (like mental light money) shall be sacred to the objects of education. On an average of 30 years the whole human race pass off the stage of life, and if this people possess £15,000,000 of property £500,000 descends by legacy or inheritance every year. One per cent. on this amount, which

the dead would never miss and their heirs would cheerfully pay, would add £5000 a year to your common school fund. Two per cent would give £10,000; and, as property would increase faster than population, a fund might thus be secured for the ultimate training of all the youth of our country. Pardon me, Mr Chairman, if I believe that these topics properly belong to the subject upon which we have entered, and if I entertain the belief, that a few hours might have been well employed in discussing them in committee of the whole house.

I come now, Sir, to the more exciting topics of the colleges. Whatever may have been said or written by friends or foes, I neither created the Institutions nor the difficulties which they have presented. King's College was founded before I was born. When I was a boy the contents as about the Pieton Academy had been already begun. My first connection with it, in any official capacity, was as a Commissioner with Judge Desbarres to enquire into and report on its condition in 1838. It was then a wreck. Dalhousie College, also built when I was a boy, was at that time unoccupied and useless. By combining the resources of the two I hoped to found a free college in the capital of the Province. This design was frustrated by the Governors of Dalhousie, who placed three Presbyterian clergymen at the head of its classes, passing over a gentleman of acknowledged ability, belonging to another denomination, thereby conferring an exclusive character upon the Institution, and driving the Baptist body to break off from the rest of the dissenting interests, and enlarge their Seminary at Horton. I voted for the charter to Acadia College, upon the express condition that no larger grant should be asked than was then given to the Academy. But it was soon found that, to produce equality, the grant must be increased, but even that did not satisfy, and another £1000 was demanded. The St. Mary's Seminary sprung naturally from the desire of the Catholics to be equal with other religious bodies. The Sackville Academy, founded by an individual, was adopted by the Methodist body, who rallied round it about the same time.

With these Institutions shortly after I came into the Legislature, we had to deal. We at first tried to satisfy all, and place their colleges on a level, by raising the new ones to an equality with Kings. This mode was found to be burdensome to the Treasury—the sectarians were still dissatisfied and other Institutions were springing up. We were then driven to an attempt to equalize by the passage of McLellan's Bill, by withdrawing all the grants, to enable us to found one central university free from denominational control. This led to the fierce conflicts of 1843. In that year the question of one central university as opposed to sectarian colleges, was fairly presented to the country. It was discussed at Public Meetings—in the Press—and in every village and hamlet of the interior. The Elections followed, and, as I have ever contended and assert now, the country decided in our favour. But the question did not come up for discus-