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IN THE STUDY.

Out over my study,
All ashen and ruddy,
Sinks the December sun ;
And high up over
The chimney's soot cover,
The winter night wind has begun.

Here in the red embers
I dream old Decembers,
Until the low moan of the blast,
Like a voice out of Ghost-land,
Or memory's lost-land,
Seems to conjure up wraiths of the past.

Then into the room,
Through the firelight and gloom,
Some one steals, let the night-wind grow bleak,
And ever so coldly,
Two white arms enfold me,
And a sweet face is close to my cheek.

WILLIAM WILFRED CAMPBELL.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

V. FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

The combined movement for the overthrow of the Provincial University, and the division of its endowments among denominational colleges, came to a head, as we have seen, in 1860. The Parliamentary Committee, from whom much had been expected, could not agree on a report, and finally contented themselves with printing the evidence. The attempt to prove any abuse or extravagant expenditure of the funds had failed, but there was still a prevalent belief in the existence of enormous resources, and a surplus of untold wealth. So in 1861, a Commission was issued, setting forth that, "whereas many of our loving subjects believe, and have represented to us, that the current expenses of University College are much greater than is necessary for its efficient working; and that, in consequence thereof, a large amount of the University income fund is annually wasted and misapplied; and other academical institutions in Upper Canada are deprived of the benefit of any surplus;" therefore, the Hon. James Patton, who had by this time succeeded Mr. Langton as Vice-Chancellor,—Dr. John Beatty, of Cobourg, and John Paton, Esq., of Kingston, were appointed a Commission, with full power to cite as witnesses, the Bursar and the President, Professors, officers and servants of the College, and to make the most searching enquiry into its affairs. Their report fills a Blue Book of 206 pages, with an appendix. Much of it is statistical, and so somewhat dry reading; but it will reward the study of anyone interested in University history. Till its publication the University endowment was a fabulous eldorado on which the fancy of educational reformers drew at will. In Mr. Langton's criticism of their various proposals he says:—

"Dr. Ryerson contemplates with satisfaction, the possible establishment of 10 Faculties in competing Colleges, each as he proposes receiving £1,500."

Again, of Dr. Cook's plan for the division of the endowment, he says:—

"To divide a limited sum so that no College would be efficiently supported, must be fatal to the superior education of the country. It is idle to say that because Victoria and Queen's are the only bodies petitioning, they alone, with the addition perhaps of Trinity, would claim a share. When the principle was once established, Knox's College and other Theological Schools, would establish secular chairs and assert their right to a free distribution. Nor would the demand be confined to Colleges connected with a particular religious persuasion. Local interests would come into play, and every large town would claim to have its College. Already there are in Upper Canada 12 institutions of this kind, and this year two new ones have sent in memorials to obtain a share with Kingston and Cobourg, of the Government allowance."

Those and other schemes equally visionary, were all advocated on the same assumption, that the University Bursar was the custodian of a bottomless purse, on which any number of educational reformers, or denominational representatives, could draw at will; while, on the other hand, it was assumed that a few thousand dollars were ample income for the State College. A comment on one of those crude proposals attracted notice at the time by its brevity, when Dr. Wilson, in addressing the Quebec Parliamentary Committee, referred to Dr. Ryerson:—

"Who has told us in his famous scheme of University organization, propounded in his voluminous letter addressed to the Hon. Francis Hincks, in 1852, that he meditated it on some of the highest mountains of Europe—a circumstance which abundantly accounts for the windy and unsubstantial character of its recommendations!"

It was not without apprehension that the friends of the University and University College learned of the appointment of a Commission, the constitution of which could not be supposed to give promise of any friendly leanings toward them. Nothing, however, could have been more fortunate. A Commission, the majority on which was composed of members of the corporations of Victoria and Queen's Colleges, had absolute power to make the most searching enquiry into the whole resources of the University and College. There was certain, therefore, to be no concealment of any abuses; and no lack of zeal in revealing the amount of resources.* The result was that no abuses could be discovered. The most careful economy was proved in relation to the erection of the new buildings; and as to the revenues, they proved to be little enough for the one university. To the astonishment and mortification of its purposed spoilers there proved to be no surplus to fight about! The report was issued in 1862. From that date the representatives of the denominational colleges ceased to take any interest in the provincial University; and by the later Act of 1872, the graduates at length acquired the right of electing certain of their own number to represent them on the Senate. The abortive scheme of affiliation, set forth in the previous Act, came to an end; and the institution was left in peace to grow and prosper, till its success led to the demand for funds to extend the College and provide additional Chairs.

The outcome of this later movement is the new scheme of University Confederation, the final results of which must be left to the pen of some future historian. Our sketch, however, would not be complete without some account of the men who have held office as Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors, Presidents, and Professors, during the period we have passed under review. This also we hope to furnish, with the aid of some of the senior graduates, familiar with the incidents of those early years of University history.

VIDI.