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dered far more agreeable than might have been the case. From the freedom with which all public questions are argued in this Province, especially when pecuniary or conflicting interests are supposed to be involved, it is rare that any lengthened discussion can be carried on without more or less asperity being the result. The Commissioners therefore made it their earnest endeavour to approach the investigation with unbiassed minds, and to form their opinions upon the evidence actually before them. The courtesy and attention which they received has enabled them to carry out this intention, and it will be their endeavour to respond in the same spirit, by presenting to Your Excellency, a report which will be a frank and faithful embodiment of their carefully considered opinions, but which, at the same time, will be framed, as far as practicable, with the utmost consideration for the interests and feelings of all connected with the Provincial University, and its immediate departments.

The causes assigned for the issue of the Commissions, under which this visitation has been instituted, and the powers thereby conferred, will be best understood by reference to the copies of each, which precede their Report. [No. 1 & 2, App.]

Although distinct and separate in their authority, yet they apply to income and expenditure emanating from the same source and subject to the same control. To have taken up each Commission as a distinct subject of investigation, would have led to great additional labour without any more satisfactory result. The Commissioners, therefore, respectfully submit this Report of a combined examination, carried on under authority of both documents.

The representations stated to have been made to Your Excellency are that "The funds of the University are extravagantly expended and misapplied, and that in consequence thereof other academical institutions in Upper Canada are deprived of the benefit of any surplus which would arise from a prudent and economical management of the same,"—also that "the current expenses of University College are much greater than is necessary for the management and efficient working of the said College, and that in consequence thereof a large amount of the said University Income Fund is annually wasted and misapplied, and other academical institutions in Upper Canada are deprived of the benefit of any surplus which would arise from a more careful appropriation of the same." Such being the immediate causes for the issue of the Commissions, the Commissioners devoted their attention in the first place to a careful enquiry into the present condition and management of the University Endowment, and in the next place to the expenditure of University College. As the enquiry progressed, they became strongly impressed with the belief that a mere financial report would fall far short of what was required, and that a much more important service would be rendered if they could accompany this report with a scheme by which the obvious defects of the present University system in Upper Canada could be remedied, the intentions of the Act of 1853 be carried into harmonious operation, and the cause of higher education be placed on a permanent and satisfactory basis.