



UNIVERSITY VARIANCE.

The meeting of the Council of Manitoba University held on Thursday afternoon, the 27th ult., marked an epoch in the history of higher education in this Province inasmuch as it foreshadowed, to use the language of one of the members, a "parting of the ways" or, in other words, clearly proved that the University as it at present exists is only a temporary institution and cannot survive the jealousies and rivalries of certain sections which have from its foundation until the present crisis worked together in apparent harmony.

That such a stage in the life of the University was rapidly being reached must have been patent to every dispassionate observer and, as a matter of fact, the amount of feeling shown in the course of the discussion which took place at this meeting, and the sidelights which were thrown on the relations which the representatives of certain colleges bear to those of other denominations, show that it is little less than a miracle that an explosion did not take place long ago of sufficient force to destroy the unanimity which according to surface appearances has hitherto existed.

The gathering to which we refer was called for the purpose of taking definite action on the question of the erection of University Buildings on the site selected near the Local Government property on Kennedy Street. At a previous meeting of the council a report of a special committee had been read regarding the title to the site with a copy of the lease the Provincial Government proposed to grant in perpetuity to the University, and a protest from the archbishop of Rupert's Land backed up by a resolution of the synod of the Church of England against the proposed site on account of its distance from St. John's College and the impossibility, therefore, of the students of that college deriving any benefit from the courses of instruction which it is intended shall be given there. A further protest from the council of St. John's College, developing that of the archbishop, was read, and then the fun began.

First of all nearly an hour was spent deciding how the business should be taken up. Mr. J. H. Ashdown, who was Chairman of the committee, thought the protest of St. John's College was the crucial point and therefore, moved a resolution setting forth that the council could not see its way to change from the site selected.

This was seconded by Rev. Dr. Duval, who almost brought tears into his own eyes and affected other members of the council in quite a different way, whilst he spoke in one breath of the great esteem—and might he say—yes, he would say, affect-

tion,—he had for the professors from St. John's and in the next breath ridiculed all that those professors had ventured to say regarding the inconveniences from which students of St. John's would suffer if the proposed site were adopted. Things now seemed to be going swimmingly when Canon Coombs rather unceremoniously disturbed the harmony of the proceedings by venturing to suggest that the motion on which Dr. Duval had expended so much heart-rending oratory was out of order inasmuch as it took for granted that the site had already been selected. This was a knotty problem which surely could only be solved by at least half a dozen members speaking at once, and consequently, with a worthy determination to be true to the occasion a large proportion of the Council joined in a perfect Babel which was ultimately brought to a termination by the wise decision of the Chancellor that the motion was not in order.

Having reached this satisfactory conclusion, the meeting found itself face to face with the awful dilemma of what to do next, and after considerable cross-firing it was decided by vote to take up the report of the committee clause by clause and take the second clause—that referring to the protest—first. The meeting thus finding itself at exactly the same point from which it started an hour previously, Mr. Ashdown again moved his resolution which the Registrar said was seconded by Dr. Duval and the members were under a great obligation to the Registrar for saying so, for had it been left to Dr. Duval to speak for himself no doubt another flood of doleful eloquence would have been the consequence.

The motion having been thus moved and seconded the Bishop of Qu'Appelle rose to move an amendment. He made a very good speech in doing so—that is he made the most of his case—and he let fly some pretty hard shots at some of the prime movers in the agitation for the selection of the proposed site. Amongst the good things he said was that those who lived at St. John's knew what they were talking about when they complained of the distance the proposed building would be from their college and it was nothing less than "gross impertinence" on the part of a member representing another college to write to a public newspaper ridiculing the chancellor of the university and the synod of the Church of England for advancing this objection. The Bishop evidently referred here to Dr. Bryce, but, although the Doctor knew this and knew also that all present were aware that he was the party thus taken to task he never wincing or showed the slightest concern—he never does, no matter what is said of him—he isn't built that way.

Another good point of the Bishop's was with regard to the nice things said about St. John's representatives by Dr. Duval, which he declared were "mere flattery and speciousness" and not relished at all by those who were its victims. The Bishop also declared that many attempts had been made to bring the University under the thumb of the Provincial Government and that this proposition was "a little tentative effort in the same direction." He moved by proposing that the site be not adopted but that a committee be appointed to seek a more central site.

After Dr. Duval had tearfully expressed the hope that Bishop Grisdale did not refer to him when he spoke about flattery and speciousness, and the Bishop had made some weak explanations which considerably detracted from the force and manliness of his former utterances, Dean O'Meara seconded the amendment. From the point of view of St. John's College it seemed rather unfortunate that the Dean should take such a prominent part in this discussion his propensity in all previous stages of this site question for "running with the hare and hunting with the hounds" having been so apparent that so far as he was concerned a silent vote would have been the best service he could have rendered both his college and his own reputation on this occasion. The whole of his florid and airy contribution to the debate was effectively punctured by Professor Laird, who remarked that the Dean had previously voted for the proposed site and the Professor also made a good point, which was loudly applauded, when he said that the Dean should be the last member of the council to charge, as he had done, the committee appointed to secure a central site with insincerity.

Canon Matheson supported the amendment in a manly speech in which he spoke of his love for the University and begged the members to carefully consider before they took a step which must inevitably lead to the withdrawal of one of the colleges representing a large and important denomination. He gave several good reasons against adopting the site and was followed by Dr. King who claimed that, except with regard to St. John's college the site was an ideal one and should be adopted. He also asked the members to believe that he would be glad if they could get a site that would place his own college in a less favoured position—a statement which the well known unselfishness of the sects renders it quite unnecessary for us to comment upon. Dr. Spakling followed, and during his speech the feelings of the two sections waxed very hot. He was attempting to show that a more suitable site

than that proposed could not be got when he was interrupted by the Archbishop of Rupert's Land who declared that, since a certain committee meeting at which Dr. Sparling had had the hardihood to suggest a site on Portage avenue he (the Archbishop) had been confident that the majority had determined not to have a central site. Dr. Sparling resented this imputation and he and the Archbishop had what may be called a battle royal in which the Doctor eventually got the worst of it, inasmuch as the Archbishop received aid from quite an unexpected quarter, namely, Dr. J. K. Barrett, who stated that he had been present at the committee meeting when Dr. Sparling proposed the Portage avenue site. It was some time before order again reigned in the meeting and when quiet was restored Rev. Professor Hart seemed to think the members wanted to hear his views on the matter, but, judging by the noise they made during his long speech, we believe he was previously mistaken in thinking so.

As no one else rose to prolong the debate the Chancellor himself had his say. He spoke with a good deal of feeling, and during his remarks there was another lively scene between him and Dr. Sparling who apparently felt very uncomfortable at the raking up of old records on this question and who resented imputations of selfishness just as strongly as previously in the meeting Dean O'Meara had fired up at statements affecting his sincerity which had been freely made by more than one speaker. The Archbishop's speech, when Dr. Sparling at last subsided and allowed him to proceed, covered much the same ground as the protest and the debate was then drawn to a close by Rev. Father Drummond who, as representative of St. Boniface College, said the site would be almost as near to his college as any that could be chosen in Winnipeg. Their sympathies were with St. John's College in the matter of educational curricula, in the importance attached to classical, Latin and Greek studies. But when they had taken a position at variance with the university it had been urged upon them by one high in authority in St. John's College that they should merge their own special interests in the interest of the university. When they were in an isolated position they had received but very scant sympathy. When the late Archbishop Taché made a bona fide offer by letter of a free site of eleven acres in St. Boniface the council never had the courtesy to thank him for the offer. The St. Boniface representatives felt justified in taking an independent position, leaving the other members of the university to decide as they thought proper. If the majority

should deem it best to eliminate one of the elements of the university by the choice of a site for the scientific department, he trusted they would continue to do so with all proper form and due courtesy.

The vote then taken with the result that 13 voted for the amendment and 23 against. In this vote the minority was made up of the chancellor and seven St. John's College representatives who were supported by the following representatives of St. Boniface College: Father Cherrier, Judge Dubuc, Judge Prendergast, Dr. J. K. Barrett and Mr. F. W. Russell the motion was then put and carried 23 to 16, the minority being strengthened by the votes of the following: Father Drummond, Father Cloutier and Mr. W. A. McIntyre. Although only one clause of the report had been then decided on the members felt they had enough of it for one day and an adjournment was taken.

It will be noticed that Rev. Dr. Bryce had nothing to say on this occasion. Considering that at most meetings of the Council he generally says about ten times as much as anyone else, and considering also the interest he has hitherto taken in this site question some may be surprised at his silence; but we are not. There are some people who, active and noisy in making their plans, prefer to enjoy the realization of their hopes and desires in calm speechlessness, and it may be that of those present—and this is saying a good deal—the now silent Doctors, who never blushes and who never resents a castigation when nothing is to be gained by doing so, probably felt the great satisfaction at this decision of the council to take a step which of undoubted means an upheaval that will imperil the whole fabric.

HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN N. AMERICA.

Seattle, Wash., October 12.—The G. H. Eldridge geological survey party, which has just returned from Cook's Inlet Country, is declared to have discovered the highest mountain in North America. The peak, which towers far above Mount St. Elias, is situated in Alaska to the right of the Sushitna river. The Government topographer took triangulation of the elevations, ascertaining by scientific calculations the exact height of the peak, which he declares to be more than 20,000 feet.

Next Tuesday morning, the 10th inst., at 9, His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface will sing a Requiem Mass for the repose of the souls of Sister Mary Xavier and Sister Gascon, the former of whom was one of the best teachers in this country and at one time the most prominent figure in St. Boniface hospital, while the latter was for forty years occupied in the household duties of the Bishop's Palace.