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EDUCATION.

THE COLLEGES OF CANADA.

The University of Toronto.

(Continued from our last.)

The announcement, of course, gave the clue to the vote. But although abandoned, Mr. Draper's bill had sealed the fate of the old University. In the event of Mr. Baldwin returning to power, the existing state of things could only be maintained by Mr. Lafontaine being deserted on that question through the fears or the scruples of some of But how could the members for Lower his friends. Canada refuse any longer to Mr. Baldwin that which had been proclaimed as necessary by a conservative Administration? How could they any longer oppose that which so clearly appeared to be the wish of the whole population of Upper Canada without exposing themselves to the reproach of tyrannising over that section of the country in the management of its local affairs, and without incurring on that ground alone, the risk of a warfare being opened on those institutions for the sake of which they had been so frequently told, that they ought to stand by the rights of King's College?

During the recess Mr. Draper left the government and was replaced by Mr. Sherwood The solicitor generalship thus vacated was given to Mr. Hillyard Cameron. Under the Administration thus modified, with an Attorney General who had resigned on Mr. Draper's bill, and with a Solicitor General who, like Mr. Draper himself, had urged at the bar of the house the rights of Queen's College, a third University bill was brought in. It is true that the new measure differed greatly from those previously introduced, but like the two others it was opposed by the council of the University and the Bishop of Toronto, on the ground that it interfered with vested rights. Having been made late in the session, and the House being prorogued on account of the weakness of the government, who had carried their address by a majority of two in the Lower House, and escaped a vote of want of confidence in the Upper House by the vote of the Speaker, this third attempt at legislation was again unsuccessful. A dissolution followed, and at the outset of the eventful session of 1848-49, a new administration was formed with MM. Lafontaine and Baldwin as leaders. Among the most prominent public measures to be dealt with by this Administration the University bill was of course included; but it was not until after the riot and burning of the parliament building that the great question so often mooted, and as often abandoned, was finally settled. Owing partly to the comparative insignificance of all other measures during the excitement created by the Rebellion Losses' bill, partly to the fact that the principle of interfering with the existing state of things had been admitted by all sides of the house, and perhaps more than anything else to the desire of seeing a final adjustment of a question which under its various shapes threatened to be an eternal obstacle in the way of every government and of every opposition; Mr. Baldwin's measure met with but a very faint resistance.

On the second reading of the bill a motion in amendment for delay to obtain certain returns, was supported