

VICTORIA COLLEGE, QUEEN'S PARK.

TORONTO, May 9th, 1898.

MY DEAR MR. WALKER,

Your favor of the 29th ult. is before me, and I shall at once proceed to give its contents my most careful and serious consideration. For that purpose I may be permitted to analyse its arguments under the following topics:—

1. Considerations affecting personal consistency.
2. Extended arguments, in which you proceed to refute various *inferences* which you have drawn from my letters.
3. Your reply to one or two positions which I have really taken in my letter, and which I believe to be correct.

After I have dealt with these arguments I may then ask leave to call your attention again to the fundamental facts and principles of my former letter, on which we stand, and which you seem to have entirely overlooked.

First, as to the personal question in which Dr. Carman, Dr. Potts and Dr. Hough are involved as well as myself, I may call your attention to the opening paragraph of my letter of May 8th, 1897. I think that it will be conceded that, from the beginning, I have striven to make the federation machinery run smoothly. Only once before have I felt myself forced to oppose an imposition of fees, which I considered inconsistent with the provisions of the Federation Act, and I have always striven with a feeling of sympathy and loyalty to support every project which promised to advance the best interests of the University. In this I have never been conscious of any feeling of unfriendliness toward University College. My one desire and policy has been to unite the two Colleges in friendly co-operation for the advancement of our common efficiency and reputation. But during the last three years several facts have given me not a little uneasiness, and yet I put them aside saying to myself, we will outlive these things, and in a little time English good sense and fairplay will develop a college system in which independence and equality, and yet unity of University interest will prevail as they do at Oxford or Cambridge. I was therefore willing, for the sake of friendly co-operation, to yield to the extent proposed, as were my colleagues on the committee. But when we reported back to our governing body we found ourselves alone in this position, and we were met by the challenge, "Examine this matter thoroughly and you will find that it is only part of an organized movement which must result either in our being forced out of federation, or in our being extinguished as an Arts College." Under these circumstances we could do nothing else than withdraw from the concessions which we were disposed to favor, but which we found it beyond our power to carry with our constituency. Our mistake was in being too pliable, and that we were mistaken we are now finally and fully convinced by what you and President Loudon have since written. But after we have already made a fair and square acknowledgement on this point, I think a generous opponent should scarcely refer to it again. In any case, we cannot sacrifice public interests for the sake of maintaining our personal reputation for consistency.