

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN CANADA.

A Letter to the Hon. Oliver Mowat, LL.D., M.P.P., Attorney-General of Ontario, in reply to a Letter by Sir Daniel Wilson, LL.D., F.R.S.E., Etc., to the Hon. the Minister of Education.

TO THE HON. OLIVER MOWAT, LL.D., M.P.P.,
Attorney-General of Ontario, etc., etc.

DEAR SIR,—A printed copy of a letter dated Feb. 22nd, 1892, by Sir Daniel Wilson, President of University College, addressed to the Hon. the Minister of Education, in reply to a communication sent by me to you, dated Nov. 3rd, 1891, on the subject of Medical Education in Ontario, has just been sent to me. The learned writer not only challenges, but entirely misconstrues and sometimes totally misrepresents, perhaps not altogether wilfully, some of the statements in the letter to which he replies. It is, therefore, necessary for me to trouble you once more, in order to prove the substantial correctness of the position taken by me throughout this entire discussion, and to correct the misconstructions and misrepresentations referred to, so that the Government may the sooner be able to reach such a solution of existing difficulties, as will be considered satisfactory and fair to all concerned.

I shall not follow the learned President's example in using strong language of denunciation or depreciation—nor shall I seek to slur the character of anyone, whether long since dead, or still living. The position taken by those for whom I speak, is far too strong to require the adoption of tactics so questionable.

I am greatly surprised that Sir Daniel Wilson, a gentleman occupying a position so distinguished, and who, if spared, as I trust he may be, will soon reach the four score-limit of human life, should have seen fit to adopt the very opposite course.

I.—The Abolition of the Former University Medical Faculty in 1853.

The abolition of the former Medical Faculty of the University in 1853 is the matter first alluded to by Sir Daniel. Up to 1853, this Faculty, maintained at the public expense, and the only Medical Faculty in the Province so maintained, was abolished by the old Parliament of Canada, only *two* of the members voting for its retention.

It would be very difficult to find a case of any legislature coming to a more unanimous decision on an educational question. It is easy, however, to explain this, all but unanimity of action, in view of the sound principle which was then very generally held, and which commends itself *now*, to most people of ordinary common sense, "That it is not the duty of the State to use public funds of any kind, in educating students for a special profession, such as medicine or law, any more than for any other calling by which people earn their living." The government organ at the time in Toronto, "The Leader" of Nov. 22nd, 1852, in an editorial on "Medical Education," clearly explains the view which then prevailed. "When we take our stand on an impregnable principle of political economy, and assert that the State is not justified in employing public moneys to produce an article which experience has shown that private enterprise is abundantly able to supply, no one is bold enough to controvert this principle." Also from the same paper of Oct. 26th, 1852, "There are three medical schools in Toronto. Why continue to sustain one by public money, when the facts show that the article you want is supplied by private enterprise?" The learned President, however, with characteristic simplicity and self-confidence, says that he has "No doubt that the abolition of the Medical Faculty was largely due to the antagonism between the late Dr. Rolph and certain professional rivals; the Hon. Dr. Rolph being at the time of its abolition, a member of the