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"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, *even* CHRIST: AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN."

The Topic for the Month.

REVIEW OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE COMMISSION—NEED OF A REFORM.

The Report of the Commissioners in this case, fully and honorably acquitting the President of the College on all and every one of the charges preferred against him, having been approved by His Excellency the Governor General, as visitor, and published in the midst of the zealous and persevering efforts of a section of the *press* to persuade the world that a gentleman of the highest moral purity had been attacked by a clique of demons; and ample time having been allowed those who think themselves the friends of the acquitted, to do their utmost in his behalf; and they, in their own peculiar way of serving him, having seen fit not only to break down every barrier which stood in the way of a full review of the whole subject, but even to challenge it in the most reckless manner; the duty need no longer be deferred of urging upon the Parliament of Canada the necessity which this case proves to exist, for the immediate abolition and prohibition of all Commission Courts not appointed by a special act of the Provincial Legislature, or under a general act that shall give to such courts sufficient control over witnesses, forestalling all deceptive pretensions to power; and that shall, at the same time, confine the commissioners to the duties of their office to be specifically defined, so as to prevent them from receiving illegal evidence of any kind, and from acting the part of counsel on either side by pleadings either general or supplementary; and that shall also provide for the appointment of a prosecuting officer in connection with such Courts to be duly obligated and bound to the faithful and full discharge of his duties; and that shall furthermore, institute the best practical tests, as safeguards against the appointment of unsuitable Commissioners.

I. IN RELATION TO THE DEMAND FOR CONTROL OVER WITNESSES.

Here especial attention is called to the fact, that the Commissioners while speaking in their Report of

a witness who refused to be sworn by them, excuse the matter as follows:—

"In any event we had not the power to enforce her attendance. In our view of the law visitors have no compulsory power over persons called as witnesses. They cannot attach parties for disobeying their subpoena or citation. We do not possess this power even as regards the Officers and servants of the College. But in respect to the latter they can generally exercise sufficient control in another way. They could adjudge such parties guilty of contumacy for any disregard of their authority and proceed thereupon to sentence of deprivation or dismission."

Thus the Commissioners make the broad confession of having been perfectly aware that they did not possess "sufficient control" even over the College servants! While they knew that over all others they possessed no compulsory power whatever!! In significant contrast with this their confessed impotency, stand the subpoenas which they issued. The following is a copy of one which was actually served omitting the name of the party therein addressed.

L. S. "We the Commissioners appointed under the great seal of the Province of Canada to visit the University College at Toronto in the execution and in virtue of the power and authority to us in this behalf granted, DO HEREBY CITE AND COMMAND you that all excuses being laid aside you be and appear in your proper person before us at University College, in Toronto, on the *twenty-fourth day of January instant*, at the hour of eleven o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to testify the truth according to your knowledge touching and concerning certain matters then and there to be enquired of by us, AND HEREIN FAIL NOT upon such pain and peril as shall fall thereupon.

"GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS at Toronto aforesaid, this twenty-third of _____ in the Nineteenth year of Her Majesty's Reign, and in the year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

N. O'REILY.
WILLIAM F. COFFIN.
JAMES DANIELL.

It is true that the Commissioners are all spoken of as highly virtuous and honorable men—men of the utmost candor and sternness of principle—gentlemen