

the House, have been urged, by personal appeals, to depart from their well-known principles, and reverse the legislation of the previous session.

The measure, for the introduction and successful carrying through of which these efforts are designed to prepare the way, aims at establishing these grants for superior education on a footing different, in at least two respects, from that on which they have formerly stood. In the first place, they are to be made only to colleges, in affiliation with the University of Toronto, (reconstituted, doubtless) following the course of study prescribed, and sending their students to be examined by that body; and are to bear a proportion to the work done as ascertained by these examinations. The colleges thus assisted, may belong to, and be under the management of, any corporation, ecclesiastical or civil. They must have buildings of a certain value, and an income of an amount to be defined in the Bill, independent of the Government assistance. In the second place, colleges, meeting these conditions, will thenceforth take their place as a recognized part of the system of public instruction, and be entitled to receive the public moneys in the same way as the Common and Grammar Schools of the Province, without being dependent on an annual vote of the House. In other words, it is sought by the measure, for whose adoption by the Legislature, all this quiet, concerted effort has been put forth, to give these grants a much more secure place in the system of public instruction than they held, even in the days when Upper Canada had not obtained independent control over the legislation and expenditure of the Province.

The scheme, as thus modified, it will be observed, is open to several grave objections. Its inconsistency with the general system of education in operation among us, will be apparent to all. It is safe to say that if it is adopted by the Legislature, the principle on which it is based, that of assisting with public moneys *ecclesiastical* or other corporations doing a certain amount of educational work, cannot stop at the point contemplated in the Bill. If it may be applied to Colleges, why not to Grammar Schools; if to the higher education of young men, why not to the higher education of young women? If to the education by this and the other Church, of the better classes of society in Latin and Greek, and natural science, why not to the education of the same or other Churches of the humbler classes of—let us say ragged and neglected children, in reading, writing, and the principles of morality? Most of our readers will see a far stronger ground for the application of the principle, in the latter case, than in the former. Its tendency to lower the standard of higher education in the Province may not be so apparent—but it is just as certain.

The objectionable feature of the measure, however, the discussion of which comes most properly within the sphere of this Journal, is the old sectarian one. This feature is slightly disguised, it is true; but only the more obnoxious to those who are, on principle, opposed to denominational grants, or even regard them as highly inexpedient in a country such as ours. In this aspect of it, the adoption of the measure by the Legislature will be fraught with the worst results. The unity of the Churches, in feeling, if not in outward organization, happily on the increase, will be seriously marred—the ministers and members of various Protestant bodies, whose real interests and aims are the same, will be set at variance by the agitations which will at once ensue. A real wrong will be done, moreover, to large classes of the community who cannot from principle share in these grants, and a *sense* of injustice awakened all the more bitter, that the wrong has been done in the name of religion, and by Christian Churches.