

CHAPTER I.

PROCEEDINGS AND REPORT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON THE UPPER CANADA COLLEGE, THE GRAMMAR AND COMMON SCHOOLS AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR UPPER CANADA.

On the 16th of November, on motion of Honourable Attorney-General J. S. Macdonald, a Select Committee was appointed to examine into the working of the Common and Grammar School System of Ontario, together with the Department of Public Instruction; with power to send for persons and papers, and to report thereon, composed as follows:—Honourable M. C. Cameron, Messieurs Craig, (Russell), Boyd, Blake, Christie, Crosby, Cumberland, Ferguson, Ferrier, Greely, Lauder, Monteith, McDougall, McGill, McMurrieh, Pardee, Beatty, Rykert, Shaw, Scott (Ottawa), Sinclair, Tett, and Williams (Durham).

It was at Doctor Ryerson's very special request that inquiry into the working of the Education Department was included in the motion.

On the same day, on motion of Mr. R. Christie, a Select Committee was appointed to consider the disendowment of Upper Canada College, and also the several petitions presented to this House, praying therefor; with power to send for persons and papers, and to report thereon;

Honourable Attorney General Macdonald moved in amendment, "That all the words after 'that' in the motion be expunged, and the following substituted in lieu thereof:—"the Petitions presented to this House respecting Upper Canada College, be referred to the Special Committee, appointed to examine into the working of the Common and Grammar School System of Ontario, and into the Department of Public Instruction, and that Messieurs Christie and Shaw be added to the said Committee." And the amendment, having been put, was carried. The original motion, as amended, was then put, and carried.

I have already given the material parts of the Reply, made before this Committee by the then Principal of Upper Canada College, to the Report on the College, which had been published by the Grammar School Masters' Association. I also give the substance of (and, in most cases,) the entire Proceedings of the Committee, (so far as I have been able to obtain copies of these proceedings,) which took place in the month of January, 1869.

At one of the first meetings of the Select Committee the Reverend Doctor Ryerson was requested to attend and give such information in regard to the subjects to be considered by it. This he did on the 16th of December, 1868. I have not been able to obtain a copy of the proceedings of that Meeting, but, among the papers in the Education Department, was the following statement of what took place at that Meeting.