

intelligent preferences; the advantages of distribution as compared with centralization; the beneficial effects of a generous competition; and the duty of the Legislature to foster whatever tends to a real and rapid progress, towards the highest attainable condition of educated society. The majority of students in this, as in all countries, being persons of limited means, the choice of a College frequently resolves itself into a question of expense. A College situated in a particular locality or specially related, like every denominational Institution, to a large section of the community, besides supplying an actual want, has an effect in attracting students which an Institution at a distance cannot have; while, on the other hand, a remote Institution may have other attractions not less effective. There can be no doubt, for example, that because of the Colleges at Toronto and the Colleges at Kingston, the list of Canadian alumni is much greater than it would have been if either of these cities had been without its Colleges, and it is not an infrequent occurrence that young men living east of Kingston attend College at Toronto, and that from the west of Toronto young men come to Kingston. The reason is that there is an opportunity for making a choice, and a variety of causes operates in determining the choice. Nor is the desire which students sometimes manifest to take part of their course at one College and part of it at another to be altogether discouraged, for each Institution may offer certain advantages peculiarly its own. But let the means of imparting a Collegiate education be confined to a single Institution in Toronto, and then not only will there be no room for choice, however strong may be the desire, or however great may be the need of it; but also, if the need at large, there will be none of the convenience and a national system implies. The people will have to complain that they can obtain no benefit from the system, the terms of acceptance being such as to place it beyond their reach; and the Legislature, so far from encouraging the love of learning, will be chargeable with the sin of obstructing that which constitutes the glory of a nation—so far from inciting a generous and useful competition, will become the patron of monopoly and centralization.

If there be any force in these considerations, it is clearly the duty of the Legislature to provide a number of Colleges. If the Ontario Parliament, in the wisdom of its first years, finds irreversibly respecting certain Colleges engaged in disseminating a knowledge of literature, science, and art, that they are ineligible for employment in this service because they are connected with particular churches (although this is the case

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