

moment the pen of the writer never touched a first principle, without producing utter confusion. And how or why was not that manner up? We answer; for two reasons:—(1) The Act he was professing to state and explain made it impossible. (2) The writer meant, by a bold assumption, to place his cause upon a high vantage ground before the public eye. The exposition of the Act under the third head is erroneous in every particular point in it. This false showing is the basis and fountain head of the whole appeal, down to the finest shade of thought or sentiment in the document. I challenge, therefore, the truth of the document, and I think that the circumstances in which the memorial has been put forward require of the religious community a vindication of the cause of truth. If the foundations of society, churches, colleges, and institutions would be made to stand, they must be properly laid. Truth lies at the foundation of commerce, social intercourse, mutual trust. It is the bond that holds together every domestic relation. Truth is the bond of union between heaven and earth. Truth is the grand point of contrast between the God of Glory and the Angel of Darkness.

EXAMINER.

MEMORIAL OF CONFERENCE OF WEST-
LEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.

To the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Canada: The Memorial prepared by order and in behalf of the Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:—

That the Legislature in passing the Provincial University Act of 1853, clearly proposed and avowed a threefold object. First, the creation of a University for examining candidates, and conferring degrees in the Faculties of Arts, Law, and Medicine. Secondly, the establishment of an elevated curriculum of University education, conformable to that of the London University in England. Thirdly, the association with the Provincial University of the several colleges already established, and which might be established, in Upper Canada, with the Provincial University, the same as various colleges of different denominations in Great Britain and Ireland are affiliated to the London University,—placed as they are upon equal footing in regard to aid from the state, and on equal footing in regard to the composition of the Senate, and the appointment of examiners.

In the promotion of these objects the Conference and members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church cordially concurred; and at the first meeting after the passing of the University act, the Senatorial Board of Victoria College adopted the programme of collegiate studies established by the Senate of the London University, and referred to in the Canadian Statute. But it soon appeared that the Senate of the Toronto University, instead of giving effect to the liberal intentions of the Legislature, determined to identify the University with one college in contradistinction, and to the exclusion of all others, to establish a monopoly of senatorial power and public revenue for one college alone; so much so, that a majority of the legal quorum of the Senate now consists of the professors of one college, one of whom is invariably one of the two examiners of their own students, candidates for degrees, honors, and scholarships. The curriculum of the University studies, instead of being elevated and conformed to that of the London University, has been revised and changed three times since 1853, and reduced by options and otherwise below what it was formerly, and below what it is in the British Universities, and below what

it is in the best colleges in the United States. The effect of this narrow and anti-liberal course, is, to build up one College at the expense of all others, to reduce the standard of a University degree in both Arts and Medicine below what it was before the passing of the University Act in 1853.

Instead of confining the expenditure of funds to what the law prescribed—namely, the "current expenses," and such "permanent improvements or additions to the buildings," as might be necessary for the purposes of the University and University College,—new buildings have been erected at an expenditure of some hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the current expenses of the College have been increased far beyond what they were in former times of complaint and investigations on this subject.

Your Memorialists therefore submit, that in no respect have the liberal and enlightened intentions of the Legislature, in passing the University Act been fulfilled—a splendid but unjust monopoly for the City and College of Toronto having been created, instead of a liberal and elevated system, equally fair to all the colleges of the country.

A Provincial University should be what its name imports, and what was clearly intended by the Legislature—a body equally unconnected with, and equally impartial to every college in the country; and every college should be placed on equal footing in regard to public aid according to its works, irrespective of place, sect, or party. It is as unjust to propose, as it is unreasonable to expect, the affiliation of several colleges in one University except on equal terms. There have been ample funds to enable the Senate to submit to the government a comprehensive and patriotic recommendation to give effect to the liberal intentions of the Legislature in the accomplishment of these objects, but the Senate has preferred to become the sole patron of one college to the exclusion of all others, and to absorb and expend the large and increasing funds of the University instead of allowing any surplus to accumulate for the general promotion of academical education, as contemplated and specifically directed by the Statute. Not only has the annual income of the University endowment been reduced some thousands of pounds per annum by vast expenditures for the erection of buildings not contemplated by the Act, but a portion of those expenditures is for the erection of lecture-rooms, &c. for the Faculties of which the Act expressly forbids the establishment!

But whilst your Memorialists complain that the very intentions of this Act have thus been disregarded and defeated, we avow our desire to be the same now as it was more than ten years ago, in favor of the establishment of a Provincial University, unconnected with any one college or religious persuasion, but sustaining a relation of equal fairness and impartiality to the several religious persuasions and colleges, with power to prescribe the curriculum, to examine candidates, and confer degrees, in the Faculties of Arts, Law and Medicine.

We also desire that the University College at Toronto should be efficiently maintained, and for that purpose we should not object that the minimum of its income from the University Endowment should be even twice that of any other college; but it is incompatible with the very idea of a national University intended to embrace the several colleges of the nation, to lavish all the endowment and patronage of the state upon one college to the exclusion of all others. At the present time, and for years past, the noble University Endowment is virtually expended by parties directly or indirectly connected with but one college, and the scholarships and prizes, the honours and degrees conferred, are virtually the rewards and praises bestowed by Professors upon their own stu-

dents, and not the doings and decisions of a body wholly unconnected with the College. Degrees and distinctions thus conferred, however much they cost the country, cannot possess any higher literary value, as they are of no more legal value, than those conferred by the *Senatus Academicus* of the other chartered colleges.

It is therefore submitted that if it is desired to have one Provincial University, the corresponding arrangement should be made to place each of the colleges on equal footing according to their works in regard to everything emanating from the State. And if it is refused to place these colleges on equal footing as colleges of one University, it is but just and reasonable that they should be placed upon equal footing in regard to aid from the State according to their works as separate University colleges.

It is well known that it is the natural tendency, as all experience shows, that any college independent of all inspection, control, or competition in wealth,—all its officers securely paid by the State, independent of exertion or success,—will in a short time, as a general rule, degenerate into inactivity, indifference, and extravagance. In collegiate institutions, as well as in the higher and elementary schools, and in other public and private affairs of life, competition is an important element of efficiency and success. The best system of collegiate, as of elementary education, is that in which voluntary effort is developed by means of public aid. It is clearly both the interest and duty of the State to prompt and encourage individual effort in regard to collegiate, as in regard to elementary education, and not to discourage it by the creation of a monopoly invidious and unjust on the one side, and on the other leading to all individual effort and enterprise, and oppressive to the State.

We submit, therefore, that justice and the best interests of liberal education require the several colleges of the country to be placed upon equal footing according to their works. We ask nothing for Victoria College which we do not ask for every Collegiate institution in Upper Canada upon the same terms.

We desire also that it may be distinctly understood that we ask no aid towards the support of any theological school or theological chair in Victoria College. There is no such Chair in Victoria College; and whenever one shall be established, provision will be made for its support independent of any grant from the State. We claim support for Victoria College according to its works as a literary institution—as teaching those branches which are embraced in the curriculum of a liberal education, irrespective of denominational theology.

We also disclaim any sympathy with the motives and objects which have been attributed by the advocates of Toronto College monopoly, (in relation to our National School system) The fact that a member of our own body has been permitted by the annual approbation of the Conference to devote himself to the establishment and extension of our school system, is ample proof of our approval of that system; in addition to which we have from time to time expressed our cordial support of it by formal resolutions, and by the testimony and example of our more than four hundred ministers throughout the Province. No religious community in Upper Canada has, therefore, given so direct and effective support to the National School system as the Wesleyan community. But we have ever maintained, and we submit, that the same interest of general education for all classes which requires the maintenance of the elementary school system require a reform in our University system in order to place it upon a foundation equally comprehensive and impartial, and not to be the patron and mouth-piece of one college alone; and the same con-