

the same period by the Universities of Queen's College, Victoria College, and other institutions organized on a different basis, under denominational control. We view with no narrow jealousy the generous endowments which private liberality has bestowed on them in recent years. While reviewing our own abundant success, we should be false indeed to our trust as the accredited faculty of this provincial seat of learning if we did not rejoice in their increased endowments and greater efficiency. We have nothing but good to anticipate for this institution from every manifestation of thoroughness and efficiency in the schools and colleges of Canada.

The system on which the University of Toronto and University College are established as provincial institutions, in which no distinction of race, class, or creed is recognized, is in harmony with the whole educational system of Ontario; and though it has been challenged in earlier years, it no longer stands in need of defence. I had hoped, indeed, that the sectarian jealousies which that old controversy awoken pertained altogether to the past; and I rejoice to believe that to a large extent it is so. But I cannot allow this occasion to pass without reverting to statements that have reached me indicative of a systematic, though covert, detraction of this college in certain quarters.

BASED ON THE OLD BIGOT CRY

of a "godless college." I have had occasion more than once to assert the claims of this college to the confidence of the community, not merely as an institution efficiently equipped in the various departments of science and arts, but as one which, though undenominational, yields to none in the value which it attaches to moral culture as essential to the thorough training of our Canadian youth. It appears to be incumbent on me now to meet the countercharge in more definite form. I will not appeal to a daily religious service, or to the special requirements and observances maintained on behalf of students in residence. The experience of both Oxford and Cambridge, as well as of other denominational colleges, has been adduced, at more than one period of their past history, in proof of the fact that such services may be rigorously enforced, while their spirit found little reflection in the daily college life. The only test of any practical value is to be sought in the conduct and character of the students themselves, and to that I now fearlessly appeal. By the very process of selection which finally determines their entrance here, we are justified in regarding them as such representatives of the young men of this province as Canada may take pride in. In number

they now exceed four hundred; gathered here from all parts of this province and far beyond its limits. They come to us influenced by the training and culture of many diverse institutions for which we cannot be responsible. They are themselves an important factor in the life and training here. One vital element of that college life I will now refer to. There has existed in University College for the past ten years a Young Men's Christian Association voluntarily organized by the students themselves; holding weekly devotional meetings, and turning to account their knowledge of the ancient languages for the critical study of the Scriptures. This association of the students of University College, thus uniting as professing Christians, numbered during the past year one hundred and seventy. In addition to regular weekly meetings among themselves, addresses were delivered at their monthly meetings, open to all the students, on important practical subjects, by speakers specially invited, including the Right Rev. Bishop Sullivan, the Rev. P. McF. Macleod, Rev. W. S. Rainsford, Rev. Professor McVicar, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Mr. John Macdonald, and Hon. S. H. Blake, in addition to members of the college staff.

Having said this much in reference to one feature of our college life, I might leave without further notice the attacks to which I have referred. But it will not be out of place for me to note further that, not only can we already refer with pride to the numbers among those who have gone forth from this college to undertake the responsible duties of principals, professors and lecturers in the colleges and normal schools of this and other provinces; who have distinguished themselves at the bar, and already occupied the bench as Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Chief-Justice; or filled such responsible offices as Minister of Education, Minister of Justice, and Auditor-General of the Dominion; but also in the ranks of the Christian ministry our alumni are already numbered by hundreds, in the Church of England, the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist, the Baptist, and the Congregational Churches of the Dominion; and from among them have been selected men to fill chairs in their theological colleges. We welcome all this abundant evidence of the confidence which the people of Canada repose in this college, as the need of higher instruction for the rising generation is more thoroughly realized by them. On all hands its value is more clearly recognized; and as the different Christian Churches have this forced upon their notice, they too

ARE MORE AND MORE REALIZING

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