

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

APRIL, 1868.



OUR readers are no doubt aware that the usual grants to Queen's College and other institutions in Ontario have been passed by the Provincial Assembly. The government introduced them in their supplementary estimates, and they cover a period of eighteen months, extending from 1st

July last to 31st December next. Considering the fact that at one time there seemed to be little prospect of an arrangement so favourable as this, the friends of the Institutions concerned certainly owe their best thanks to those members of the Legislature, whether in or out of the government, who by their exertions secured it for them.

The circumstances which were made to attend the introduction of the grants are unprecedented in the history of legislative proceedings, and seem to have been studiously and even dexterously arranged with the design of destroying all hope of their continuance. We may state these circumstances.

The grants were held back as long as possible. Almost until the last the premier was said to be unyielding. He is supposed to have a mind of his own, and with reference to his intentions in this particular case he seems to have kept them to himself, until further silence became impossible. The treasurer, it was reported, would resign rather than agree to propose the obnoxious subsidies. Denied a place among the ordinary supplies, where they would have been in good company with the grants to "Sectarian" charities, they were at length

introduced in the supplementary estimates. in fellowship with an item of marine expenditure, the proposal of which was denounced by the *Globe* as a "flagrant job." Their announcement to the Assembly was preceded by the reading of a message purporting to come from Government House and declared by the secretary, with an emphasis becomingly solemn, to be signed by the Lieutenant Governor's own hand. It was evidently intended that this state document should be accepted *nem. con.*, as the death warrant of all collegiate institutions in the province. All collegiate institutions? Without exception, so far as assistance from the treasury is concerned. For the message begins by affirming that the Governor regards "the payment of any sums of money out of the treasury to collegiate institutions in this Province as inexpedient," and then immediately proceeds to say that he "is yet impressed with the conviction that embarrassment would ensue were the colleges named in the annexed schedule suddenly deprived of the annual grants heretofore voted by the Legislature of the late Province of Canada; and on this ground alone His Excellency submits to the Legislative Assembly the propriety of granting to the said Colleges the several amounts mentioned."

It is very noteworthy that the message does not describe the institutions which it is declared to be inexpedient to assist, any more particularly than by calling them *Collegiate* institutions. They are not put under ban, because of their denominational connections. It is, in the opinion of the Governor, inexpedient to assist any Colleges in Ontario, no matter what their character be—sectarian or non-sectarian. We shall be very much astonished indeed, if what this expression of opinion seems to imply shall meet with anything like general sympathy from the people of the Province—if, in the event of the present grants being discontinued our good neigh-