

cognizance of this subject, having already provided for a primary department—Natural Sciences, Languages, Mathematics, Drawing and Music.

Your Committee believe that the oft-repeated sentiments of the M. E. Church in favor of national and general education have not been changed; and while steadily refusing Government support and control in all ecclesiastical matters, she has ever been friendly to endowments for literary and scientific purposes, as the best employment of a nation's funds. No check is to be put upon the freedom of her ministers and members; their rights as subjects are not invaded by her terms of communion or of office. Aggressive and progressive in her principles and practices, yet firmly adhering to the ancient landmarks; disdaining all forms of political interference by churches or ministers, of which none are more despicable than dictating on points of state legislation. That "we are in favor of Legislative aid to higher seminaries of learning not intended to impart a sectarian education," is well known. And we consider the Legislature the only competent authority to decide the means and manner of furnishing such aid.

Your Committee, therefore, regard the Belleville Seminary as an institution of learning incapable of being considered sectarian, or even denominational in an offensive sense, as the control thereof by the M. E. Church, or the General Conference, secures no favor or benefit to her members or ministers that may not be equally secured to others; and we suppose the grants made by the Provincial Parliament to the institution have not been made to the M. E. Church, or to any of her Conferences or Committees because of their relation to that church, but to the people of Canada, and would have been made to any person, company, or body of people making a similar provision for educating the youth of the country. The design of the projectors and patrons is fairly expressed by the declaration made in the Subscription Book, and published; therefore, we regard the attempts that have been made to stamp

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