

Report on the Petition of Christians of

And we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do grant and declare, that these our Letters Patent, or the emolument or exemplification thereof, shall and may be good, firm, valid, sufficient and effectual in the law, according to the true intent and meaning of the same; and shall be taken, construed and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of the said Chancellor, President and Scholars of our said College, as well in our courts of Record as elsewhere, and by all and singular Judges, Justices, Officers, Ministers, and other subjects whatsoever of us, our heirs and successors, any mis-recital, non-recital, omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

In witness whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS OURSELF, at Westminster, the 15th day of March, in the 8th year of our Reign.

(By Writ of Privy Seal.)

BATHURST.

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the Registry.

[Signed]

D. CAMERON, *Regr.*

Secretary's Office, 20th February, 1828.

To the House of Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled:

THE PETITION OF HIS MAJESTY'S DUTIFUL AND LOYAL SUBJECTS, THE INHABITANTS OF THE MIDLAND DISTRICT.

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT, sensible of the value of Education, as a medium of diffusing the comforts of civilized life and the blessings of the Gospel of Salvation, we, your petitioners have felt no small degree of gratification in perceiving the improvement of Common Schools, and an increasing sense of the importance and necessity of affording our youth a more liberal education in the higher branches of learning. It was therefore with unfeigned joy we learned that, to the many other instances of the paternal care of our gracious Monarch, he was about to add the grant of a Charter for the establishment of a University in this Province. We fondly hoped it would be adapted to the existing state of the country, and meet the wishes and wants of its mixed population. Circumstanced as this Province is, it is not practicable for the different religious denominations of its inhabitants to have their several appropriate colleges. It is therefore peculiarly desirable that there should be one for the general benefit of the whole. Such, we hoped, would be the Institution about to be chartered by His Majesty; but our disappointment and grief were proportionably great upon being made acquainted with the provisions of the Royal Charter, and finding it to be exclusively an Episcopal College. The advisers of the Charter have not indeed been so regardless of their own interest as to shut the door against admitting the children of other sects, to aid the college funds by their entrance, fees, and quarter bills, and to afford the desired opportunity of impressing their minds, in the most susceptible period of life, and attaching them to the Episcopal cause, in pursuance of the grand policy of the honorable and reverend President, who has avowed his expectation that this University will be the means of Episcopalizing the whole Province.

SUCH means, however, of influencing the religious opinions of the rising generation of His Majesty's dutiful subjects, the inhabitants of this province, and drawing them into a Church from which they conscientiously dissent, appear to your petitioners, as we trust they will appear to the public at large, to be illiberal and unjust, and not less impolitic. The proselyting tendency of the system is too obvious not to excite jealousy and aversion. If King's College, under its present Charter, formed as it is for the exclusive advantage of a single Church, and that a minor one, shall be suffered to go into operation, without material amendments in its provisions, unless another college also shall be established for the general benefit of other religious denominations, the inevitable consequence, we believe, will be, that the native youth of the province receiving a public education, will, with the exception of Protestant Episcopalians, be generally sent out of the province to obtain it at colleges where they can be taught classical learning and the arts and sciences, without prejudice to their religious principles and feelings. Parents who are conscientious in their profession of religion, will not willingly put their sons, in the unguarded season of youth, under a process of collegiate proselytism to a different faith.

ACCORDING to the restrictive provisions of the present Charter, the University of King's College is constituted for the emolument and support of one favourite Church alone. All the Officers and Professors are required to subscribe its articles, and degrees in divinity; the department of science immediately connected with Church interests are confined to members of that Church, to the exclusion of those of other Provincial Churches, however eminent and meritorious they may be. The University indeed is intended to be an appendage to the projected Episcopal Establishment. As such it is considered by the Lord Bishop of Quebec, who, accordingly contends that it "should be governed and conducted by members of the Church of England."

THE effects of establishing a minor Church with exclusive privileges and resources over a dissenting majority of the population of a country, have been exemplified in unhappy Ireland. As similar causes might produce similar effects here, we deprecate the consequences of such an experiment. Against the project, therefore, of erecting the Protestant Episcopal Church in this Province into a dominant Church (although inferior in point of numbers to several other Churches) declaring her form of religion to be the established religion of the Province and her ministers the only "Protestant Clergy" in it, and granting them a monopoly of the Clergy Reserves, and a control of the education of youth, by means of this University, we are constrained by a sense of duty to our King and Country, to ourselves and our children, to remonstrate; and we humbly pray your Honorable House, as the constituted guardians of the people, your constituents, to remonstrate against it, in their behalf, to his Majesty and the Imperial Parliament, in such manner and terms as may appear to you most likely to avert the impending evil.

WE submit to your consideration that a University upon such a partial and exclusive system will be from year to year a perpetual source of religious, if not political animosity; as it will give to one church a permanent separate interest, adverse to other more numerous churches; and all these other churches, irritated by a two fold monopoly & domination, will, upon the known principles of human nature, be induced to make common cause in their own defence, in opposition to the dominant Church. The conflict will be a lasting one, and its effects cannot fail of being prejudicial to true religion, and to the peace and prosperity of the Province, so long as the irritating cause shall continue, that is, during the continuance of the envied monopoly.

IN granting a Charter with a monopoly upon a principle so illiberal in its application to the state of this Province, and so vexatious in its operation, we are satisfied that His Majesty had no other motive than to promote the intellectual improvement and prosperity of this distant part of his dominions; but we believe that he was imposed upon and deceived by misrepresentations, and that if he had been truly informed of the condition of the Province, and the religious views and feelings of his people here, he would never have given his royal sanction to such a charter. We therefore repeat our prayer, with an ardent hope that your Honorable House will apply for a repeal of the Charter, as having been granted erroneously, and upon misinformation, or for such a modification of its provisions as may render it better adapted to the beneficial purposes of an institution of learning; and with an animating belief that the enlightened and benevolent mind of our revered Sovereign will, upon such application from you, see the reasonableness of our request, and graciously grant the prayer of his Canadian Subjects; for we are children of the same great family with our brethren of the Church of England, as faithful and as loyal subjects of His Majesty, bearing an equal share of the burdens of Government, and equally entitled to its benefits.

UNDER such circumstances, to be excluded from the offices and honors of the only College in the Province, and subjected to literary as well as ecclesiastical domination for no other crime than that of adhering to the dictates of our consciences, is felt to be an unmerited degradation.