

Just at this point a word of explanation is necessary. A great many people are under the impression that the University of Toronto and University College derive their revenues from the Provincial Exchequer. It has been repeated *ad nauseam* that these institutions are "children of the State;" that they were endowed by the State, and must still be supported by the State. This, as generally understood, is not strictly correct. I am not aware that either of the institutions named have ever received a dollar in money from the Provincial Treasury. A great many years ago, when responsible government was yet unknown, and when the phrase "Crown Lands" meant something different from what it means now, an enormous quantity of the "waste lands of the Crown" were set apart for higher education. This endowment subsequently came into the hands of the authorities of what are now known as the University of Toronto and University College, and had it been carefully managed, would have been ample for all reasonable needs for a century to come; but the revenues were diverted from their legitimate purpose; a vast amount was sunk in costly buildings, which are now declared to be insufficient for the needs of the University; a large additional amount was "loaned" to Upper Canada College, and never repaid; and now, having wasted their revenues, and finding it very difficult, if not impossible, to get them replenished, a scheme is framed under the delusive name of "Confederation," which is to shut the mouths of the friends of all other Colleges, and so make the way clear to obtain unlimited supplies of public money, while the Denominational Colleges, which have aided to bring this about, are to be left to furnish their own buildings, staff and equipment, and provide for all running expenses as best they can.

Let it be understood: the clause under consideration is the first distinct proposal, so far as the Government is concerned, to increase the endowment of the University of Toronto and University College from the Provincial Treasury. It is the thin end of the wedge, which if once allowed to enter will quickly be driven home.*

* The Government of Ontario gave money to help found Victoria and Queen's, and for many years gave grants in aid. No one ever asserted that these two Universities were failing to do good and necessary work, and hence the withdrawal of the grants was a gross breach of faith. The Government has never yet given money to University College, and if precedent counts for anything, her claim to aid now is by no means so good as the claim of Queen's and Victoria to continuance of aid.