

the last. With reference to the receipts of the Institution, nearly £4,000 was raised in 1834, when the same sum, promised by Government, was withheld; that sum was afterwards obtained: in addition to which £650 per annum is received from Government. At one time there were about eighty pupils, and the average cannot be estimated at less than forty. Yet, with these Government grants, and the fees from the pupils, the Institution cannot be sustained.

Much of the present state of things may undoubtedly be attributed to uniform bad management from the beginning, but it is equally certain that the political conduct of its Principal, Dr. Ryerson, has been the cause of its more rapid declension during the past year. Before Dr. Ryerson's appointment there were about seventy pupils, and the Institution supported itself; but now there are only about twenty-five pupils, and the Editor of the *Guardian* admits that the Institution is in a sinking condition, consequently the first extensive expenditure on the building,—the contributions from the people and the Government since, with the fees from the pupils, are all now expended on twenty-five pupils. Is it either likely or reasonable that any Government will make further grants under these circumstances: it would be a most unjust appropriation of the Provincial funds.

Independent of other causes, which we have only hinted at, the Institution has been rendered an arena for the display of political partizanship, in support of Dr. Ryerson and the Governor-General. The College has been in confusion ever since the publication of the "Defence of Sir Charles Metcalfe," and was so for some months previous. The Canadian *Leonidas* has a worthy substitute in the person of his temporary successor, who now holds both Dr. Ryerson's offices—that of Principal of Victoria College, and of Deputy Superintendent of Common Schools, and who has taken upon himself, in addition to the duties of these offices, the unofficial duty of defending the present Government, Lord Metcalfe, and Dr. Ryerson; while the students who oppose him in the performance of the latter are persecuted and insulted, and their prospects in life injured, by the partiality and oppression of the present Principal.

When the patrons of the College come to know that party politics are the most prominent portion of the College exercises, and that persecution and oppression is the fate of those who have the courage to express opinions in opposition to the ruling power in the College, it will be no subject of wonder that they should refuse to support it.

Oh! how deplorably ignorant must the Editor of the *Guardian* be, as to the religious state of the College; or if not ignorant, how awfully hypocritical, when he talks of the real friends of the Institution "clinging closer to it, because of the occurrences of revivals of religion, when they see useful learning and experimental piety successfully promoted." As we have said on former occasions, that we have authority for every item that we give to the public, we repeat the assertion on this occasion; but the chief

portion of the present article is derived from the admissions of the Editor of the *Guardian*. We support the latter portion of this article with the following extract of a letter from a correspondent at Cobourg, on the subject of the late Examination, at the close of the College Session:

The audience who attended the last Exhibition of the students in Victoria College were very naturally surprised when they saw the Principal pass over without remark one of the speakers whose name was published in the programme: the occurrence, together with several circumstances connected with it, has given rise to considerable inquiry; and, I regret to say, to the disgrace of those concerned in this infamous transaction, much pains have been taken to injure the character of Mr. Johnson, by circulating reports that he was not permitted to appear on the stage, because of some fault in his article, and some unmentionable misconduct—a slander which is as mean as it is malicious, as unfounded as it is unjust; for the composition was accepted by the Principal, and by him pronounced "creditable to its author and to the Institution," and Mr. Johnson has now in his possession a reply to his Memorial to the College Board, subsequently received, on this same subject, in which both of these reasons are peremptorily denied. The course pursued by Mr. McNab, in this affair, is an insult to the community, as well as a piece of the greatest injustice to Mr. Johnson himself. The facts are as follows:—Mr. Johnson, together with about a dozen others, several weeks ago, received from the Faculty an assignment to prepare an original article to declaim at the approaching exhibition. He selected his subject, prepared his oration, and presented it to the Principal, by whom (as before mentioned) it was approved. About a week or ten days before the time appointed for the Exhibition, all the students who were to take part in the exercises united in a request to the Faculty to diminish the number of speakers, as there was danger of wearying the audience. Each speaker expressed his willingness to retire at the suggestion of the Faculty. Two were accordingly struck off, and the number diminished to ten. One or two of the students then declared their refusal to abide by the decision of the Faculty, and influenced their colleagues (with the exception of Mr. Johnson) to require the authorities of the Institution to strike another name from the list of speakers, or they should decline taking part in the exercises. The Principal then (confidentially!!) informed the author of the "Hexo" that the objection was made to himself personally, and then made a suggestion, on terms so base (which I may hereafter mention, if necessary) that Mr. Johnson began to suspect some collusive proceedings. He afterwards learned that the Principal objected to certain passages of his oration, but he never could learn anything tangible from him, or those clamorous students who figured so conspicuously, on the subject. The other members of the Faculty (as it is but just to state) have decided in favour of the persecuted individual. Mr. McNab, however, referred the matter to the Board, without bringing before them the facts in the case; and about an hour before the commencement of the exercises of the 8th instant, informed Mr. Johnson that he was excused from speaking on the occasion. It was afterwards supposed that the whole affair was a deep laid conspiracy of the Principal to injure the character, and, if possible, blast the unalloyed reputation of the young gentleman, whose (for the uniform consistency of his conduct) we (the students) highly esteem. And, considering the circumstances of the case, we cannot but regard the entire transaction (I speak of the well-known declaration of the majority of my fellow students) as an insult to ourselves, and the greatest injustice to our late associate, whose character is thus stabbed (if the above be a correct supposition) by the man who ought to be regarded as his guardian and friend; while the case will be greatly aggravated by the fact, that the Principal has suffered himself to appear as intimidated and coerced by the students, in order to cover his own vindictive proceedings, and accomplish his own unworthy designs.

I call upon Mr. McNab for an explanation why he turned a deaf ear to the counsel of the Faculty with which he has the honour to be associated (however unworthily),—I call upon him for an apology (however vain and unsatisfactory it may be) for the mysterious, or arrant, and unprecedented course which he has pursued towards an innocent yet injured individual—towards an outraged and insulted public. I call upon him to consider that there are no lig leaves available to him, by which he can hide the heinousness of this transaction, or the wickedness of its guilt.

We have only to say to the managers of the College funds, disprove these statements, and our Journal shall be open to them, for

that purpose; as they may rest assured, that of all the obstacles to the support of public institutions, there is none more difficult to overcome than that of withholding full and correct statements of receipts and disbursements. Till they do this, they are not entitled to any assistance, either "from the Government," or any "other quarter."

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The *Christian Guardian*, of April 30, contains an editorial article on this subject, in which the Editor makes some important admissions, in favour of the object of our Journal, namely, Lay-Representation; and he introduces it with a notice of the existence of a Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Indian tribes and destitute settlers of the country. On the understanding that such a Society did exist, about £2,000 annually have been raised by public contributions, from the members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and from all persons indiscriminately. On this ground her Majesty's Ministers have taken the chair at public meetings, and others of them have occupied the Missionary platforms, giving this Society the support of their names and their purses, with great liberality. What will those persons say when they find, that, in reality, no such Society has ever been in existence. The constitution of a Society was indeed drawn up and published, but has never been acted upon: all has been done by the Preachers, who have disposed of the money collected, as they pleased, without any one being allowed to interfere, in opposition to them.

Though the Constitution requires an annual meeting of the members, to elect officers, and for this purpose makes every subscriber of one pound a member, and eligible to vote for the election of officers, there has never been a meeting of the Society: the Conference have appointed all the officers, and those officers from among themselves, with the exception of a few laymen, on whom they depended for being subservient. To prove this, we know of an instance of one of these lay committee men opposing some of the proceedings of the clerical members, when one of them told the opposing layman, "If I had known that these were your views I would not have had your name on the committee." On another occasion, a lay member rose in the committee, and opposed the clerical members, and what was the result? the following year his name was erased from that committee, and that name was the only one erased. This course goes on to this day: every one that exhibits any independence—any desire to interfere, oppose or dissent, is removed the first opportunity. We challenge all opposers of these statements to tell us when an annual meeting ever took place; when and how were the officers elected; when were the accounts balanced, and audited before these lay committee men; when were they consulted at all? We trust these statements will open the eyes of the more liberal contributors to this Missionary Society, (so called,) who, not being members of the Church, took every statement for guileless truth, and subscribed their ten and twenty pounds each. We trust, also, that the present Government will pay attention to the distribution of money in relation to the Missions of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, for there is a sum of £5,000 or £6,000 held in a state of abeyance, on a disputable question, as to which body is to have it. Notwithstanding the special pleading of Dr. Ryerson, we believe there can be no reasonable doubt of the first intimation which dictated the Government grant, namely, that it was to be at the disposal of the British Conference. It was certainly plausibly put to Lord Sydenham, and he was disposed to submit, that, rationally and equitably, considering that the object was to benefit the Indians and destitute settlers of the country, the money should be given to the Wesleyan Methodist Church; but, as the British Conference had long been, by its own the same way, the strength of this argument was gone. In this state of suspension the grant remains, and all we ask is, that it may be given to that body of Methodists who will apply it the best; and to the publication of a full and true statement of receipt and disbursements. If this is not to be done, the