

subject, we would respectfully call their attention to the following considerations:

1.—The maintenance of a thoroughly equipped University is not only in perfect harmony with the principles of our Common School Law, but it seems to be the necessary requisite for the complete development of our public school system.

2.—One Provincial University is, in our opinion, sufficient to meet the educational requirements of the Province, and its equipment would not be more than respectable were all the resources of professors, students and means, which Nova Scotia can reasonably furnish concentrated upon its support.

3.—The withdrawal of the Presbyterian bodies from the connection which they at present maintain with Dalhousie College would remove even the semblance of denominational influence from that institution.

Upon these grounds, among others which we might mention, we shall be glad to hear that the Government are prepared to assume the whole responsibility of sustaining Dalhousie College as an efficient Provincial University.

If, however, the Government do not think that the time has come for them to adopt the course which we have suggested, then we feel constrained to press our undoubted claims for a due consideration at their hands in the distribution of the public funds for collegiate institutions. In thus referring to this matter, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we would not, as a body, accept any public money to be applied to sectarian purposes; but when we plead for Dalhousie College, we present our claims on behalf of a Provincial unsectarian institution that has no more connection with our School of Theology than our common day schools have with our Sabbath Schools. We are desirous of having the recognized principle of our common school law applied to higher education, viz.: that no sectarian institution be supported by the public money. In the present state of matters, however, we feel it to be a duty which we owe to ourselves, as well as to the cause of higher education, to call the attention of the Government to the fact that the body of citizens which we represent, have a right to their share of the public money for the unsectarian institution with which they are allied. We represent two bodies, the Free Church and the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, and in supporting Dalhousie College, we are allied with the Kirk of Scotland in this Province. Each of these bodies would, according to the present mode of distributing college grants, be fairly entitled to the sum of at least \$1400 a year from the public treasury.

The Roman Catholics get \$2800 for their denominational colleges. The Episcopalians get \$1400 for theirs; and the Wes-

leyans and Baptists get each the same amount. Now we wish to remind the government that the Presbyterians are the most numerous denomination in the Province and their claim to a fair share of the public money for collegiate purposes cannot be denied. We would therefore most respectfully ask the Government, if they are not prepared to assume the entire responsibility of supporting Dalhousie College, whether or not they are prepared to pay over to the secretary of the Board of Governors the amount which would be justly awarded to us as a denomination, for the benefit of Dalhousie College.

In presenting this claim on behalf of the college we desire to call the attention of the government to the fact that the Presbyterians have never hitherto received their fair share of the public money for collegiate purposes and thereby a very large saving has hitherto been effected to the Province. If the request which we now present be granted, the money will be appropriated for the benefit of a Provincial institution which is furthering the best interests of higher undenominational education in the country.

Halifax, Oct. 19th, 1874.

ACTION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

The Executive heard respectfully all we had to say in explanation, and, without expressing their own views, promised to take the matter into consideration. It is probable however that such consideration was postponed in presence of other matters of more pressing necessity; and when the Legislature assembled, it was found that the Government had been reconstructed, and that the matter remained undisposed of and probably unconsidered. The greatest readiness however was manifested to afford us a second interview, at which the new members of the administration might hear our views. The Committee to which this matter had been referred by the Board accepted the opportunity granted, and aided by Rev. G. M. Grant and A. James, Esq., presented the case anew and with some additional arguments.

The views presented by the Committee were that we did not ask anything for ourselves as a denomination, that we respectfully urged the Government to make Dalhousie the Provincial University, and, as a step in that direction, to aid the Governors to the same extent at least, that they would feel obligated to give grants to the Presbyterian bodies, if they were pressing their claims in favour of denominational institutions.

The Executive having reserved the matter for consideration, cheerfully consented that the paper presented to them formerly, and now again read, should be placed in the hands of the members of the House of