

*Question 11.*—In the management and sale of lands, please state fully the instructions by which you are guided?

*Answer.*—The Order in Council, 16th August, 1853, for regulating the management of the Bursar's Office, to which I have already referred, and by which the formation of a Board of Endowment was authorized, provides "that it shall be the duty of such Board to value and fix the price of lands to be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of, to state the terms of sale, &c."

As soon as possible after the appointment of Messrs. Morrison and Richards as my coadjutors, in February, 1854, I called the Board together, and we met frequently until the whole list of lands, or nearly so (it having appeared afterwards that a few lots had been overlooked), had been gone over, the more recent valuations examined, and a minimum price fixed at which I might sell; it being understood that I was at liberty to exercise my discretion in asking a larger price, if I thought circumstances demanded or warranted it.

There have been three general valuations of University lands: one soon after the patent was issued or about the year 1830; one about the year 1840, and another in 1852 and 1853; besides occasionally a special inspection of a lot or a few lots near together. When I receive an application to purchase a piece of land, into the value of which I have not previously looked with special reference to a sale, my practise is to examine all the valuations of that lot, and others near it of a like character, and compare these values with the prices which may have been obtained for some of them, and fix what I conceive to be a fair price for the lot in question. If it is more than the minimum fixed by the Board, I offer the land at my price; if it is less, I either make a regular offer by circular at the minimum, or say to the party that I am not authorized to sell at less than so and so. This, however, rarely occurs. When it has become quite apparent that it is impossible to get the price fixed by the Board as the minimum, then I seek the authority of the Board to reduce, but this has been seldom necessary.

*Question 12.*—Is there any regular audit of your accounts and examination of the securities in addition to the usual returns to the Auditor General?

*Answer.*—There is not.

*Question 13.*—Can you suggest any scheme for reducing the expenditure in your office, either by a reduction of the staff or otherwise?

*Answer.*—Soon after the prorogation of Parliament in the spring of 1860, I had an interview with Mr. Langton, who was then the Vice-Chancellor of the University, and, as the Committee of the House of Assembly, which had been appointed to enquire into University matters, had finished its labours, the probable results formed, as a matter of course, the principal topic of conversation.

Mr. Langton made a remark to the effect, that he understood it was intended to introduce a material change in my department. On asking an explanation, he replied, very much to my surprise, that he expected I would be asked to undertake to do the work for a particular sum; in fact to farm the office. I replied that in such a case, a necessary condition would be that I should have the entire control, and the power to select my own assistants, without reference to any existing arrangements. To this he assented, as being a matter of course, and we parted with the understanding that I would think the matter over. After revolving it in my mind for some time, I did not relish the idea of becoming, strictly speaking, a mere farmer of the office; but as I had long been of the opinion that the responsible head of an office should have the right to retain or select his assistants as he pleased, and had experienced the annoyance and inconvenience which frequently results from a contrary system; as, moreover, I had reason to entertain the belief that some such proposal as that suggested by Mr. Langton would be made to me, I preferred to let Government first know, through Mr. Langton, what I was prepared to do; and accordingly I addressed a letter to him a few weeks afterwards, with the expectation that he would lay it before the member of the Government who took charge of University matters.

Nothing further transpired until October of the same year, when I received from the Provincial Secretary a copy of a memorial to His Excellency from the Senate of the University, on the subject of the expenses of the Bursar's Office, with the request that I would report thereon, and at the same time state my opinion "as to the practicability of reducing the expenses of the office without impairing its efficiency."

I made a very full report in answer to the Secretary's communication, and at the close referred to my letter to Mr. Langton, of which I sent a copy; I also referred to Mr.