

except it should receive the cordial assent and co-operation of these other institutions. I did not agree with their view that we should devise the plan, but I did agree with the view that we should express our willingness to consider fairly and cordially any plan that might be devised by those who complained of the existing state of things. I moved the following amendment:—"That this House, while firmly adhering to the view that denominational colleges should not be supported by State aid is prepared to give its best consideration to any scheme which may be laid before it for the improvement of superior education and for the establishment and maintenance, through the Provincial University, of a uniform and elevated standard of graduation." Now, that amendment was carried by a vote of sixty-six to four, and the four who voted against it did so because they thought it was not unfavourable enough to the denominational colleges, so that there was practical unanimity, in the mind of the Legislature, in the re-assertion of the view that the public interests required the adoption, to the full, of the existing system, that there was to be no attempt to resume a system of public aid to denominational colleges, and that it was important to make arrangements for the establishment of a uniform and elevated standard of graduation through the medium of this, the Provincial University. Now, since that time there have been in the Province four general elections, and I am not aware that any party or individual has at any time raised the question whether the decision which was then reached by the Legislature was a sound decision. It has seemed to be universally assented to. The offer was made at that day to consider any plan consistent with the fundamental principles which are embodied in the

resolution that might be brought forward by those who asserted that there was a better mode of dealing with this subject; that offer has remained open ever since, but it has never been accepted. Why not? I leave that question to be answered by those to whom the offer was made. I have only to say for myself—and I think I speak for others who are deeply interested in the question of higher education—that we are as anxious to-day as we were at that time to consider calmly and fairly, and if possible come to a favourable conclusion upon, any plan which shall not involve the sacrifice of fundamental principles, and which shall not involve the impairment or destruction of this crowning edifice of our Provincial educational system.

Now, much has been said on the subject of union, and I am sure we shall all be delighted if a plan should be brought forward which is adapted to all the necessities of the situation, which is not inconsistent with the fundamental principles which each holds, and which should promote a real and cordial union of sentiment and interests in the establishment and perfecting of the new system proposed. I say so for myself; I have always felt it. I have not seen my way to reconcile the positions which are taken by those who occupy places opposed to myself on this subject, and therefore I have not been able to propose a plan; but if a plan can be proposed, I am sure it will be considered with the desire to find that it shall be successful. But I say this, that it would be infinitely better for all the institutions that the present condition of things should continue than that a union should be consummated which would be but a hollow union, which would not be a real cordial union, which would not be a union in which each felt that the best had been done that was possible for each and that