

1886

QUEEN'S COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY.

To the Friends and Well-wishers of Queen's University:

OTTAWA, January 1st, 1886.

During the past year Queen's University reached, perhaps, the most critical period in her history. For some time previously a general College scheme for the Province of Ontario had been in preparation, which on the 13th January last was submitted to the Board of Trustees. This scheme, whatever its merits, however attractive some of its features might be considered, involved practically the destruction of the University at Kingston. If carried into effect in its entirety, the scheme would have rendered null and void the Royal Charter granted by our present sovereign forty-four years back; it would have necessitated the removal of all the effects of Queen's to Toronto and the abandonment of buildings acquired at great cost at different times; it would have sacrificed a local affection that has grown with the growth and strengthened with the strength of the University; it would have effected a complete effacement of all those characteristic features which have made Queen's so important a factor in the higher life of the country.

Under the circumstances which arose, the Board of Trustees acted with great prudence and deliberation. They determined to consult all the constituents of Queen's before giving a final reply to the Minister of Education, by whom the scheme was submitted.

The Municipal Corporation and people of Kingston and the County Council of Frontenac were not long in giving expression to their views. The adjacent counties soon followed, and as one man they pronounced emphatically against the scheme.

The graduates and supporters of Queen's from beyond Kingston and its neighbourhood were in due time heard from. No less than 355 communications on this important question were received from every section of Ontario remote from Kingston, and likewise from the other Provinces of the Dominion.

The Toronto scheme, so far as it affected Queen's, was universally condemned by every friend. The opinion expressed in every quarter was substantially the same, viz:

1. That the charter of Queen's University should be upheld in its entirety.
2. That Queen's should forever remain at Kingston carrying on University work.
3. That every effort should be made to increase her efficiency and general usefulness.