

PREFATORY NOTE TO THE FIFTEENTH VOLUME.

The principal part of this Volume is devoted to a full and detailed account of the noted controversy at Quebec in 1860 on the subject of the University Question, or rather the alleged mal-administration by the Senate of the University of Toronto of the University Act of 1853.

Although it was originally and practically a financial question, involving the parliamentary support, in part, of the several outlying Denominational Colleges and Universities of Upper Canada, yet, in the proceedings which took place before the Select Committee of the House of Assembly, and in consequence of the elaborate statements, which were made upon the subject, the discussions before the Committee took the widest range, and involved, not only the whole question of University management and administration, but also the subordinate, yet important, questions of "Matriculation," "Scholarships," "Pass and Honours" and the "Options" subjects, incident to a comprehensive University Course of Studies.

In the original Draft of the University Act of 1853, it was proposed to provide for a specific, (although, then, undetermined,) annual Grant by the Legislature to these Colleges and Universities, but, in the Act, as passed, this provision of the Bill was modified so as to provide that a "Surplus Fund" should be created, consisting of the annual balances left over, after paying all the legitimate expenses of the maintenance of the University of Toronto and its University College. The Upper Canada College, as an appendage of the University, having a specific endowment of its own, was not farther dealt with in the Act, than to place it under the jurisdiction, as to its management, of the Senate of the University.

As time went on, after the passage of the University Act of 1853, it was found that, in its administration by the Senate, the expenditure of the Income from the Endowment of the University, had so largely and so unexpectedly increased, that it was felt by the Representatives of these outlying Colleges that there was little prospect of the provision of the Act for the formation of an Surplus Fund being realized. The consequence was, that the Authorities of both Victoria and Queen's Universities Memorialized the Legislature to inquire into management of the University and the action of its Senate in preventing, by its alleged extravagant expenditure, the formation of the Surplus Fund provided for in the University Act of 1853. The Conference of the Methodist Church, and its official membership took an active part in this movement,—the latter in the form of Meetings, at which Memorials and Petitions to the Legislature were adopted. The result of those formal appeals was, that the House of Assembly, in March, 1860, appointed a large and representative Select Committee to inquire into the whole matter, and to suggest a remedy.

So elaborate and so varied were the subjects which were brought before this Select Committee and discussed, (with more or less personal feeling), that the Committee either felt itself unable, as a Committee, to arrive at any