

ago the Protestant Committee placed on its minutes an official record of the facts "so as to show that it is not open to any individual to represent the Universities as benefiting from that part of the fund" (*i.e.*, the Marriage Licence Fees) "only, to the prejudice of the poor municipalities." (Minutes of the Protestant Committee, 4th October and 29th November, 1901)

My venerable predecessor, the late Sir Wm Dawson, held very strong views as to this subsidy to the Universities. He looked on it as a binding compact that was never to be broken, and he used solemnly to adjure me to see that it was maintained. Just about the time of his death, the amount was cut in two, so that McGill and Bishop's each get only half what they used to derive from this source. My opinion at the time was that if the Legislature wished to take this action they should have done so on their own motion, instead of flinging an apple of discord to the Protestant Committee. But in the circumstances, I acquiesced in the action that was taken, just as I shall be prepared to acquiesce in further action along the same line, provided it be taken by the Legislature itself. It will be a curious development if the Quebec Government should feel constrained to intimate that it is unable to make any provision whatever for the support of our English-speaking Universities,—and that at a time when the Province of Ontario is finding such large subsidies for both Toronto and Queen's. The withdrawal of the \$2,655 at present enjoyed by McGill would certainly emphasize the fact that we are not in any way under State control and the Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction would thereafter be robbed of one of its most interesting features.

But what a calumny it is to say that the "University representatives" (so far as there are any!) on the Protestant Committee at Quebec are there only to see that they get the "lion's share of the plunder" for their institutions! After all \$3,200 between McGill and Bishop's is not a large sum—especially when set alongside of the \$150,000 voted annually to Toronto. Personally, I feel that I have done a good deal more inside the last ten years as a member of the Protestant Committee than only show this matter in its true bearings. If the schools of the Province have a list of well-selected text books and a carefully graded course of study, they have to thank mainly the expert educationists