

(Copy.)

"EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,

"TORONTO, 2nd November, 1886.

"DEAR SIR,—The Minister of Education desires me to inform the Stratford Collegiate Institute Trustees through you, of his intention at an early day to issue a special Commission to investigate and report to him in regard to the charges preferred by Mr. Idington, a Collegiate Institute Trustee, against Mr. McBride, the Head Master of the Institute.

"In a matter of this kind, involving the professional standing and character of the Head of the Institution over which the Trustees preside, and to which they cannot be indifferent, the Minister hopes that the members of the Board will give every assistance in their power, with a view to render the investigation as thorough and exhaustive as possible.

"He will thank the Board to provide and name a suitable place in which the investigation can be conveniently held.

"I have, etc.,

(Signed,) "ALEX. MARLING,

"Secretary.

"JOHN C. MONTEITH, Esq.,

"Secretary, Collegiate Institute Board, Stratford."

NOTE.—On the same day that these letters were written, the Collegiate Institute Board, by resolution, requested the Minister to hold an investigation into the truth of the charges. The following is a copy of the letter received from the Board :—

(Copy.)

"COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE BOARD,

STRATFORD, November 4th, 1886.

"SIR,—Acting under instructions from the Stratford Collegiate Institute Board, I beg to furnish you with a copy of a resolution passed by said Board on the 2nd inst., viz :—

"Moved by Mr. Macgregor, seconded by Mr. Idington and resolved, That the Minister of Education be requested to investigate all the charges made by Mr. Idington against the Principal.

"You will observe that the Board desires you to investigate the charges, copies of which, as handed in by Mr. Idington, are enclosed herewith.

"I may also state that it appeared to be the wish of the Board that the investigation be held at an early date.

"Yours truly,

(Signed,) "JOHN C. MONTEITH,

"Sec'y, Collegiate Institute Board.

"HON. G. W. ROSS,

"Minister of Education, Toronto."

(Copy.)

STRATFORD, November 8th, 1886.

"DEAR SIR,—I have just seen Mr. Steet, Chairman of our Collegiate Institute Board, and he instructs me to inform you that the Board will gladly render any assistance it can in connection with the investigation, and do anything that lies in its power to facilitate matters, with a view to have a thorough investigation.

"The Board has named the Council Chamber in the City Building as a suitable place in which to hold the investigation of charges made by Mr. Idington against Mr. McBride, and it will be secured for such purpose.

"Yours respectfully,

"JOHN C. MONTEITH,

"Sec'y, Collegiate Institute Board.

"ALEX. MARLING, Esq.,

"Sec'y, Education Department.

The following letter was addressed to Mr. Idington :—

(Copy.)

"EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,

"TORONTO, November 11th, 1886.

"DEAR SIR,—The Minister has received a statement of the charges which you make against Mr. McBride, and also a list of the names of witnesses in the case.

"The Minister desires to call your attention to the fact that in connection with a large proportion of the names of the witnesses, you give no reason why they should be subpoenaed. For