

at Belleville, and he was sorry to learn, that after having for several years refused to have anything to do with the grants, some of the leaders of that body were about to come to the conclusion that they ought to change their ground in this respect, and were ready to take anything which would be given them by this Legislature. The New Connexion Methodists numbered 28,100, and other Methodists 23,330. They had thus 123,145 Methodists who had hitherto refused to have anything to do with these grants. The Baptists, too, had always expressed conscientious objections to these grants, and had not participated in them. although, of course, they had, equally with the participants, had to contribute their share to the taxation from whence these grants were drawn. The Baptists numbered 61,559. Other denominations made up 498,993, who did not participate at all in these grants. Now, as a matter of right and wrong, it was asserted that where so large a body of the people had conscientious scruples against these grants, it would be unjust to tax them for that which their scruples, whether right or wrong, would not allow them to participate in. It had been urged that superior education would receive a severe shock in the event of the discontinuance of these grants. But Government did not participate in that feeling. Means of education—primary and superior—were provided by the establishment of a University common to all, and against which it is not conceived any sound objections can be urged. True, they did not teach religion; and if that were offered as an objection against them, it was just the reason why a mixed community like ours could not consistently give aid to sectarian colleges. It is said, that to oblige students to resort to Toronto, will be to compel many of them to come a long distance, and give Toronto a monopoly, which would be unjust. But, with the present means of communication all through the country, with railroads running its entire length, distance from Toronto was really a matter that made little difference, so far as travel was concerned. And if the question of expense were taken into account, he thought the expense would in Toronto be as light as any of the colleges were able to afford, with the aid derived from the Government. However that might be, the funds of the University were quite sufficient to bring the means of education down to the lowest possible figure. It was urged again, that unless these rival institutions were encouraged, superior education would suffer that it would be best promoted, and