

agitation which will have intervened in the meantime.

Mr. LAUDER agreed in the closing remarks of the member for South Bruce. He would not criticise the conduct of the Government, in coupling with the continuance of these grants for a year, an intimation that they would then be discontinued. It was for them to take the responsibility of that course. The question was one of the utmost importance. There was none, with reference to which the people of this country would more narrowly scrutinise the proceedings of this house. It had been said it was a part of the Reform policy to do away with these grants. He could not agree that this was the case. The great Robert Baldwin had declared that he would not assume the responsibility of withholding appropriations of this character. It was not a question to be settled by a Government, merely sitting in their council room. It was one to be settled by legislative enactment. The people of this country had agreed to set aside sectarian differences, with reference to our Common School system. Still he believed the vast majority would, if it were practicable, prefer that their religious teachers should have some influence in moulding the minds of their children, in connection with their education. As regarded the higher education, it was closely identified with the teachings of theology, and a great injury would be done to it, if it were withdrawn from the influence of the best minds in the various churches. To cut off these churches as fosterers of the higher education, was a position which no statesman in this country ought to take. He would not discuss the bearings which the amount of work done by the various colleges had on the subject, as these had been so ably presented by the member for Welland. He would say, however, that he did not think the people of this country were prepared for doing away with these grants, without a complete revision of our whole university system. The University building was the wonder of America. He was proud of it, but, if they ascertained the feeling of their constituents, they would find it to be that it had been built at an extravagant cost, out of all proportion to the position and wants of this country. He believed theological teaching should be sustained by voluntary contributions. But to say that men of the highest culture should be driven from their posts as educators of the people, because in another place they were theological teachers, was in the highest degree absurd. This was not a question peculiar to this country. In England the question of University extension was occupying very general attention. The statesmen of that country thought it right to avail themselves of the establishments they found in existence, supported by various denominations, and to utilize them for the general good by giving grants to increase their efficiency—and he did not see why we should not copy so good an example here. He hoped the Government would be prepared, before another session, to deal with the question by legislation.

Dr. MCGILL said he had listened with a great deal of interest to this discussion, and had been disappointed with the way in which it had been handled. He thought many hon. gentlemen were afraid to meet the question boldly, according to the dictates of their own consciences. He was pleased with the policy announced by the Treasurer. He would have been better pleased, however, if the Treasurer had not been quite so liberal. (Hear, hear). Still if the speech of the treasurer indicated the policy of the Government, he (Dr. McGill) endorsed that policy with his whole heart. He was glad we had a Government which had the courage to bring down such a measure, and he trusted they would have the courage to stand or fall by it. As a reason why grants should be continued, it had been urged