

in the interests of the public that the representatives of the people should exercise a supervision over the management of the institution, but that a great constitutional principle was involved in the question of whether the Government should exercise such powers independently of the authority of Parliament. It was, contrary, he believed, to the wishes of the people, and certainly opposed to old Reform principles, that the members of this House, who were the trustees of the people's money, should have no voice in the expenditure of the large sums required for the maintenance of Upper Canada College. The buildings recently erected for the purposes of the institution had been spoken of as additions; but in reality they were entirely new structures. They had been planned by American architects, at the instance, he believed, of the Principal and a gentleman connected with *The Globe* newspaper. It was a usurpation of the rights of this Legislature that these buildings should be put up—as he understood they were—with money drawn from the banks on the strength of the public securities, without the members of the House having any voice in such expenditure. It was absurd to contend that the existence of an old law was any justification for such a state of things, for if that law were not a proper one, it could be repealed. He had made public reference to the matter last summer, and the newspapers supporting the Government had come out and said that there was no borrowing—no usurpation of the authority of the Legislature. He thought the time had come when the endowment fund of Upper Canada College should be utilized for the benefit of superior education over the whole of this Province. At the time it was established the country was sparsely settled. There were only two or three Grammar Schools in the Province, and it was perhaps desirable to set apart a portion of the public funds for such an institution. He remembered that there were a good many scandals in connection with the institution; and that that good old Reformer, William Lyon Mackenzie, had said it was an institution for the special benefit of the Tory gentry of this city, in fact, to use Mr. Mackenzie's own words, it was a "prepare-a-tory" school. (Laughter.) When the Reform party came into power there had been a thorough examination of the accounts, and it appeared that upwards of £40,000 of the University endowment had been consumed by Upper Canada College, and that sum had never been repaid since. He went on to say that he did not think it was fair that an institution which cost the people of this Province \$25,000 per annum should be sustained for the benefit of the few pupils who attended it from the city of Toronto.

Mr. CROOKS pointed out that there was now accommodation for one hundred and fifty boarding pupils, and that it was taken full advantage of.

Mr. MACDOUGALL replied that the Government had no right to establish a boarding-house when there were plenty of private ones in the city. The ground taken up by the Upper Canada College was equally well covered by our High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, and these afforded the opportunity of superior education at a much cheaper rate than the College. He went on to disparage the education of Upper Canada College, and advanced the opinion that a much larger number of pupils would come from the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes to the University than from the Upper Canada College, and yet those institutions did not receive so much of the public money as did the one under discussion. If the people of the Province knew all the facts with reference to the management of the University College and Upper Canada College—if they knew the extravagance that had characterized that management in the past—if they understood how little those institutions had accomplished—they would declare that the Reform Government ought to find means of stopping this extravagance, and utilising this magnificent public fund for the benefit

of the people of the Province at large. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. BETHUNE said the hon. gentleman who had just taken his seat did not endeavour to conceal the object of his attack—he (Mr. Macdougall) had declared that he wanted the fund of the University and Upper Canada College distributed.

Mr. MACDOUGALL—I want the surplus distributed.

Mr. BETHUNE (continuing) said the hon. member had learned something about the fund from gentlemen on that side of the House. The hon. mover of the motion was anxious to turn aside that fund, which was intended for the benefit of all Upper Canada irrespective of denominations, from its original purpose and to distribute it among the denominations.

Mr. LAUDER objected to motives being imputed to him which he did not entertain, and he called the hon. gentleman to order for doing so.

Mr. BETHUNE—If the hon. gentleman does not entertain such views he does not agree with the hon. member who sits on his right (Mr. Macdougall), who wants such a distribution.

Mr. LAUDER—The hon. gentleman is quite mistaken as to my motives.

Mr. BETHUNE said he did not know how else a distribution could be made unless it was made to the denominations. The Collegiate Institutes were progressing very well, and did not need more aid than they obtain; and, moreover, the County Councils had never asked that any share of the fund in question should be paid to them. The hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. Macdougall) urged that the fund should be distributed among the various denominations.

Mr. LAUDER—And the Collegiate Institutes.

Mr. BETHUNE—The Collegiate Institutes have all they want, and do not need any money. With regard to imputing motives, all he could say was that this motion was a direct attack on the Toronto University and the Upper Canada College. The hon. member for South Simcoe (Mr. Macdougall) had made a speech in an unguarded moment. That gentleman had evidently observed the Government buildings when on his way to a picnic, and had the subject of expending money "without the authority and sanction of the Legislature" suggested to him. The hon. member was not half as good a lawyer as he was a politician, or he would not have made the statement that the principles of legislative government were violated by borrowing without the consent of the Legislature; but his hon. friend found out afterwards that he had made a mistake in this particular, and then he concluded to assist the hon. member for East Grey in attacking the Government. But it would be found that the Government in this matter had done nothing except what the law of the land enabled them to do. (Cheers.)

Mr. MACDOUGALL—I have no doubt of that. I have looked at the statute.

Mr. BETHUNE—But so great is the respect of my hon. friend for constitutional law that, notwithstanding the absence of any statutory prohibition, he declares the Government were wrong, because their action was "opposed to the principles of responsible government." (Laughter.) The hon. gentleman was one of those who consented to the passage of the Act relating to the revised statutes, and yet he now took the position that the law in question, which is contained in the volume, is musty and ought not to be respected. The House itself had taken the "must" out of it by re-enacting the statute. (Cheers.) But the hon. member had discovered his mistake since his Napanee speech, and he (the speaker) trusted that the information the hon. gentleman had recently obtained would make him wiser and more cautious when he went to the next picnic. (Cheers.) But perhaps the hon. gentleman's speech was an after-dinner oration (laughter); no one, especially a lawyer, would have made such a speech before dinner. (Renewed laughter.) He (Mr. Bethune) was not aware whether the beverage at this peculiar picnic was champagne or cold water. (Laughter.)