

will have as large a population as Scotland ; and Scotland, when it had not half the present population of Ontario, possessed four universities, every one of them with professors of European reputation ; obliged to "cultivate literature on a little oatmeal," because the greedy Barons appropriated the land which John Knox would have given to parish schools, grammar schools, and universities. The farmers, merchants, mechanics, and manufacturers of Ontario will not prove as greedy as the Scottish Barons in the days of Knox. The objection that others will at once apply for Provincial aid, should Queen's be aided, is therefore not valid."

To this extract I ought to add, in all fairness, that it is to be hoped the time will come when others will be in a position to apply. A fetish may be made of number two, as well as of the sacred number one. No person has a right to dictate beforehand how many the country needs. England had only Oxford and Cambridge, when the Queen came to the throne. Though these two have been greatly extended since, they are still admittedly far from complete. The number however has increased to seven, and it is evident that in time Knox's ideal, "a university for every principal city" or section of the country, will be reached in England. There is no difficulty in deciding what universities should be aided, if there is any public conscience in Ontario ; and if there is not, something more radical is needed than "One university, with allied denominational universities,—but all in one place." That cry may suit the exigencies of some, but it is a poor cry, and not a policy on which statesmen can stand. It may be noted that the British commissioners of the 1851 exhibition, once they had decided to establish Fellowships worth £150 stg. a year in connection with British and Colonial universities, had no difficulty in finding which, at present, are worthy of the honour. They recognised two in Ontario, Toronto and Queen's, and two in the rest of Canada. Our vision ought to be as true as theirs ; and if we cannot trust our own vision, we can act on theirs as a precedent. It ought surely to be clear that "in a matter of this kind every institution must stand on its own merits. If the record of Queen's justifies a Government grant, that does not entail assistance to others with inferior claims. If Queen's is unworthy of a grant, that should not exclude others with adequate claims."