

not be an impossible one: it would require only tact, forbearance, and a large-hearted desire to help forward the general good.

But there is another idea of a University, and to me it appears the truest and most complete, though at the present time, I am forced to confess, utterly Utopian. It is that which regards a University, as not merely an examining body, but a means for gathering together the learned and refining influences of a country, and maintaining them so as to be capable of the most wide-spread benefit.

It should be preeminently a seat of learning, a resort of the learned, the determinant of national taste on all questions of literature, science, and art; capable of speaking ably, thoughtfully, and decisively on all matters political and social. Such seems to have been the idea of the founders of the great ancient universities—Oxford, Cambridge, Salamanca, Bologna—which at once contained and directed the intellectual life of Europe, and some of which continue sensibly to influence it still. Such was the idea which constituted Athens, though conferring no degrees in our sense of the term, a true university; and such should be the idea in the foundation of any University to be called National.

To produce one on this plan it would be requisite to collect all the institutions, at present scattered through the country, into the metropolis of the Province. Here at the very outset is a tremendous obstacle. If a provincial town has granted a bonus for the maintenance of one of these Universities, it will not easily or carelessly listen to a proposition to remove it. As it is, we already hear murmurs of discontent at Toronto's monopoly. The institutions themselves, too, would be at the time inconvenienced by the change, particularly in not being able immediately to dispose of their buildings. But even all this trouble and expense, I cannot think incompatible with the end. For what are the advantages? They are numerous: chiefly that we should thus obtain the largest possible number of men really ambitious of learning, and be able to offer them the largest inducements. For not the increased funds alone, of such an institution, but its increased scholastic advantages would attract to it, or enable it to procure, for all its members, the services of those, whose learning the present small and scattered Universities could not enjoy at all, or at most singly.

But whatever its constitution, in neither case could it in any way interfere with the internal arrangements of the colleges. That Trinity men should still require a surplice in addition to the usual academic dress, would, I most sincerely trust, always be the case: and that those who quote S. Jerome in disproof of episcopacy should reside at Queen's, would not prevent them from meeting cordially their Catholic brethren in the common lecture-halls of the University.

As to an objection sometimes raised by thoughtless persons, that affiliation would depreciate or cancel all degrees granted by the independent institutions, it is foolish in the extreme. Common sense would tell us that the latter would not be likely to be intrinsically so valuable; and there is nothing to prevent an agreement being reached that they should not be cancelled. In a generation or so they would all be gone. But in case of the worst, the surest proof that we of these unregenerate days could give of the worth of those depreciated degrees real would be their cheerful surrender to the requirements of the age, and the spirit of progress which demanded them.

Such then are some of the aspects of affiliation; and, in rough guise, a few of its advantages and difficulties. It will be a happy day, when a question, so big with importance to the educational interests of our new country, shall be lifted out of the region of mere theoretical discussion, and earnestly taken in hand with a view to instant adoption.

### THE INSTITUTE.—SOME SUGGESTIONS.

BY FREDERIC MOFFATT, B.A.

If our Right Reverend, Reverend and lay fathers in Council appreciate, as thoroughly as I imagine, the present happy revival of energy in the residents, and their anxiety, however selfish, for her best interests, they will most assuredly help us to turn to better account in the future the opportunity, which the Literary Institute offers, of supplementing the ordinary College curriculum.

The Institute's aim has always been to combine a literary with a forensic training. The former has never been lost sight of, though the latter has apparently engrossed the larger share of attention. It would be idle for me to occupy space in stating how essential to the wants of the present age is something more than a smattering of

such a pursuit; and, bearing in mind the present scope of the Institute and the suggestion to which attention will be here directed, I make bold to state that our society may be made no small factor in the College course.

Left almost entirely to the control of succeeding seniors and freshmen, as this college institution has been in the past, yet, with its limited resources, it has played a far more important part in the formation of that distinctive character, which it is our pride to attribute to Trinity men, than many even of her own children are aware of.

Now, since the authorities have always been adverse to the establishment of a distinctive "English" Chair,—preferring to allow more than a quarter of a century to elapse in the expectation of having, in the happy future, an endowed Professorship of English Literature—what could be more reasonable than to apply a certain portion of the College funds in furthering the efforts of the men themselves in that particular branch of their college training, the practical benefit of which in after life cannot be too highly estimated.

Space forbids my entering upon the details of my proposal; let it suffice to point out that we are peculiarly happily circumstanced in having, at our own doors almost, numbers of scholarly and able men, whose services would be easily obtainable and whose terms in such a cause would certainly not press too heavily on the University chest, that would only be too happy to give a short course of evening lectures to the members of the Institute on the most important "English" subjects. A prize essay, in addition to those already offered by the "Council," on one of the hundred difficulties that beset our Alma Mater—an open competition to all her sons, that the best article may be obtained—the essay to be delivered at some of our gatherings or published in this new and welcome sheet, with *kudos* and cash to offer a double inducement; with four or five open debates, during term time, on some burning question of University interest (and we have not to go far to find such), would add to my proposed scheme further means of carrying out the design of the Institute's founders, and might, in addition, not only increase the interest of those in residence in our meetings, but also call back to old Trinity many of her sons who have not of late had particular cause to reunite, though distance is not in many cases an excuse.