

which the most they seem to be able to say is that they exist, that they have done good work, and that their supporters are attached to them. This attachment we all both understand and share. It has been born of sacrifices made in the cause of education and religious equality. But since in the matter of our educational policy, reason and sentiment point in opposite directions, it behoves us to consider carefully, whether we are to allow ourselves to be carried away by feeling on a course which leads to stagnation, or guided by intelligence towards progress and prosperity.

But the mental inertia of conservative instinct is hard to overcome, sectarian prejudice is strong, and the wrongs which denomination has done to denomination in our past history are not yet altogether forgotten. Time may therefore be necessary to convince the people of the Province both that better educational means than we now possess are a necessary condition of progress either in culture or in wealth, and that our churches may, and must, beat their spears into pruning-hooks and unite their educational forces with those of the State, in order to obtain them. That time may not be long. While, however, public opinion on this matter is gradually being matured we dare not remain inactive. The Upper Provinces, already far ahead of us, are advancing rapidly. Even the other Maritime Provinces have made a start. If we stand still, we shall soon find ourselves hopelessly behind. If, then, we cannot have University Consolidation now, we ought at any rate to take the next best course, and make temporary provision for the more important technical departments by utilising the scientific chairs in the Provincial colleges. We have seen that such provision would not involve any too heavy drain upon the Provincial exchequer.

It may seem insulting to the intelligence of Nova Scotia to assume the possibility of opposition to so reasonable a scheme. But there can be little doubt that even this proposal would not meet with universal favor. It may be hoped that the opposition would be weak. But should it be sufficiently strong to close even this door of hope, the Legislature can at least make provision for the establishment of a modest agricultural school, either independently of all other educational institutions or in connection with the Normal School.

And we might hope that the founding of such a school would be but the first step in a course of development which before a very long time would provide for the young men of Nova Scotia, what the young men of other countries now enjoy, viz., the means of obtaining thorough education in those departments of knowledge, which would enable them to utilise the natural resources of their native land.