

Appoint an annual collection in each congregation and allow the Session to send the proceeds to such college or colleges as it might choose. Each institution would thus be thrown directly on the liberality of its friends and each congregation would thus have free scope for the gratification of its preference. Old associations previous to the Union would in most cases decide this point. This method would undoubtedly increase the revenue of all, would probably enable them to report annually to the Assembly a surplus instead of a deficit. But mark the consequences certain to result. The old dividing lines would thus be perpetuated. The Union would be an aggregation, not an amalgamation. Moreover, it would cause many Sessions, especially those of charges formed recently by the union of two or more formerly distinct congregations, to become a scene of strife as to the destination of their collection.

Thus all these schemes, which deal with an annual collection, produce one or other of two very undesirable results, either the perpetuation of the old dividing lines or an insufficient income. Both these results are perilous to the peace and prosperity of the Church. That we may effect the great ends for which Union was consummated—that we may go forward as an unbroken phalanx against the enemies of Christ, it is essential that we advance with united front, enthusiasm pervading the whole mass—sullen holding back nowhere. Hence it is the duty of all to forget the things that are behind, and look with kindling eye to those that are before. All distinctions, that once separated, must be wholly obliterated. Every wellwisher of our Zion must pray and work for the hour, when measures shall be discussed and decided simply on their merits, without regard to the former connection of the proposers; when the keenest observer shall be unable to discern whether the members once belonged to Ephraim or Judah—hail from the east or the west. The great progress to this blessed goal already attained was one of the most gratifying and hopeful features of last Assembly. So also, a chronic deficit in the income of any or all of the colleges tends to mar the harmony—to disturb the settled loyalty and attachment to the Union which should prevail. It gives occasion to dreamers to revive their speculations, to quacks to reproduce their nostrums. It creates uneasiness and awakens fears in the minds of those who are warm friends of a particular college as to its safety. Thus they become lukewarm—yea, cold in other departments of the Church's work. It is true that the tie which binds graduates to their Alma Mater, which attaches to a college a host of enthusiastic supporters, is a sentimental one. But that is no disparagement of it. Is not patriotism a tie of sentiment? Are not sentimental, rather than material or self-interested motives, proof of an advanced rather than a low civilization? But be they what they may, there they are; and every true statesman, whether in Church or state, must take account of them as important factors in the settlement of any measure. That our Church may not merely walk but run, yea, mount up on wings in zeal for the cause of Christ in this land, this fertile source of division and alienation must be eliminated as soon as possible. Thus we are driven to Endowment as the true solution of the difficulty—as the only escape from this threatened evil.

Objection may be taken to this measure on the ground that it throws too much on one generation, and that, too, while the country is in a com-