

Editorial.

THE representatives of the various colleges, who have been meeting in conference, have agreed upon a basis of confederation. The terms of agreement seem to have been carefully thought out, and it is to be hoped they may prove satisfactory. The general idea, as was expected, is that of a common university possessing not only degree-conferring powers but also a teaching staff who shall give instruction in certain subjects. The other subjects necessary for degree are to be taught in the several confederate colleges, University College being of the number. We presume that the line on which the division of subjects is made is this: The colleges are to teach those subjects which it might be supposed the denominations would prefer to have under their own jurisdiction, while the University Professoriate are to conduct the departments in which there could be no danger of a professor showing any religious bias. Fortunately, those subjects in which the most expensive apparatus is required, such as science and applied mathematics, will, under this arrangement, fall within the sphere of the University professoriate. On the supposition that what we have just stated is the basis of division between the college and university subjects, we wonder that the latter should have been entrusted with metaphysics and history. But, of course, from the standpoint of Toronto men we have no ground of complaint in this matter. And now the action of the various colleges in regard to the basis is anxiously awaited. As we write, Victoria has accepted the scheme with a few conditions which, no doubt, can be satisfactorily arranged. Knox has approved of it. The others have yet to report. Of course Queen's is the college least likely to fall in with the proposed arrangement. She would have to make the greatest sacrifices. But this is a matter so important and so far-reaching in its consequences that it is worth some sacrifice on the part of all. We trust that Queen's may see her way clear to enter the union, and that all the colleges will show their willingness to give up something for the sake of clearing the way for each other. A glance at the proposed staff of instructors will show what a magnificent seat of learning we might unite in forming—an institution of which not only Toronto, but Ontario and Canada would be proud.

IN our student debating societies, we sometimes have speakers who persist in talking when no object is to be gained. When precious time is to be saved, however, a way is generally found of shutting off a discussion from which it is quite evident that no good result is likely to flow. Probably students have an advantage in having means at their command for this purpose, which it would be undignified to use in a graver assemblage. With these introductory remarks, we subjoin the following extracts from a report of a late meeting of Presbytery: "At the afternoon session it was moved that the regular meetings be held monthly, instead of bi-monthly, as at present. A motion was also adopted to meet at 10 a.m., instead of 11 a.m., as is now the custom. The next business was the discussion of the Remit from the General Assembly, on the question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. . . . As was stated by several, they had all thoroughly dissected the subject and were prepared to vote. A good deal of discussion took place as