

to the utterances of President Nelles, we expect to find lucidity and frankness, and we are not disappointed. No man in Canada has a better right than he to speak on University matters, and the one great inducement to me to consider favourably the confederation scheme, was the fact that in his opinion some such scheme was workable, so far at any rate as Victoria was concerned. With him, the object of the whole movement was "neither federation of colleges, nor removal of Victoria from the town of Cobourg, but a satisfactory system of higher education for the Province of Ontario, and an honourable and effective relation to that system on the part of the Methodist Church." Dr. Nelles had thus two objects before him, one educational and the other ecclesiastical. The relation that Victoria bears to the Methodist Church made it necessary that he should regard both objects, and from his point of view the two are inextricably united. We, however, can distinguish between the two, and feel that the first must be the object of every citizen, while the Methodist Church can be safely trusted to look after the second. It would be an impertinence in us to express an opinion as to what the policy of the Methodist Church should be, and its own answer to the confederation scheme has not been given.

The representatives of Queen's occupied a position of peculiar independence during the whole discussion. They were presenting no begging box to the State; and in the Presbyterian Church there is no one policy in University matters which they had to keep in view. The fullest freedom on the subject is laid down in the Church's basis of union. The representatives of Queen's were therefore in a position to keep before their minds one object from first to last. The only question they had to ask was, by what scheme can the most satisfactory system of higher education be obtained, or in what way can improvements be effected? The relation of Queen's to State and Church enabled them to take this position. Like all historic Universities, Queen's is self-governing. The trustees report annually to the General Assembly, and the Assembly as the supreme Court of the Church, every member of which is a corporator of the University, can instruct them as to the policy they should pursue. But the General Assembly can be depended upon to be faithful to the spirit of the Union, and to the history and traditions of the institutions connected with the Church. The Assembly has the power to remove Knox College or Montreal College to Kingston. In my opinion it would be unwise to do so, and certainly the Assembly will never do so in defiance of the feelings and votes of the graduates and benefactors of either of those institutions. Much less would it dream of uprooting the only University connected with the Church, so long as it is fulfilling the great objects for which it was established and receives the hearty aid of friends old and new, and the unanimous support of the section of the country whose educational wants it specially serves, and of a thousand graduates and alumni as loyal as any University in the world can boast.