

THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

ONE UNIVERSITY FOR ONTARIO; OR
TWO, THREE OR MORE, AS MAY
BE NEEDED.

I POINTED out in the last number of the JOURNAL (1) that, before the days of responsible government, the Imperial authorities to whom the public domain then belonged gave 500,000 acres to the Province for College and High School education, on condition that help should be given to more than one college, seeing that in due time more than one would be needed: (2) that the Province having accepted the gift is bound to fulfill the condition: (3) that the policy of aiding the denominational colleges, which had come into existence in different centres in consequence of "King's" or Toronto University being denominational, having come to a happy end, some people had strangely inferred that this meant that only one institution in Toronto had a claim for Government support: (4) that the legislature, by its action in starting the Kingston School of Mining and Agriculture, and more particularly by action last session which enabled the School to take up additional departments of practical science, had unanimously repudiated this preposterous inference.

The great question of whether it is desirable to have only one University in a province so vast as Ontario, or whether, as His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, said in his address at Queen's, last October, "it was a wise and far-seeing policy," to have more than one, remains to be discussed. On this point, it may be said, briefly, that the whole civilized world, with insignificant exceptions, has declared against monopoly; and also that this

view is being expressed with special emphasis at the present time. Admittedly, the best educated part of Great Britain is Scotland, a country very much smaller than Ontario, and it had four universities when it contained less than a million of people. A University College, which is practically a fifth, has recently been added, to the number, in the city of Dundee. All five institutions are aided by the Imperial Treasury, and Mr. Carnegie is credited with the intention of founding a sixth in the south of Scotland. What would Scotland have been without its different centres of light? John Morley, an Englishman and a graduate of Oxford, speaking recently at the annual meeting of the Dundee University College, said: "It was the Universities that had made the Scots the powerful nation they had been in the history of the world." Pointing out that they existed in order to teach something more than merely the mechanical arts and professions, he quoted from John Stuart Mill that "the effect of a University was to educate a man's life as a whole, not merely that he should sink himself in the *minutiae* of a special profession," and from Principal Donaldson that "there was no reason why a student should not study both ancient and modern literature; and there was no doubt that the study of ancient literature was the best preparation for the study of modern literature, as the study of ancient life was the best preparation for dealing with the much more complex and confused problems of modern life."

So much for Scotland. England seems to give a different testimony, as for a long time it had only two Universities. But not only did these in-