

Victoria and Toronto.

WHEN, in 1890, the Federation Act became effective in the union of Victoria University with the University of Toronto, it was no easy matter to bring the public to understand the new relation. Even many University men were scarcely able to accept the matter seriously, or to look upon the step as a permanent as well as new phase of our University life. For nearly fifty years first King's and then Toronto had stood in the relation of a rival to Victoria and Queen's, and later to Trinity. In such a relation Toronto must always have fallen short of the complete ideal of the Provincial University. In 1886 Victoria, Queen's and Trinity united in a common Matriculation Examination which reached all the High Schools, and thus became Provincial in its character and formed the first step toward the present departmental examination. But this, instead of bringing them more closely into touch with the Provincial University seemed to array them in a united competition against Toronto on very nearly equal terms. At the very date when our University work in Ontario assumed this form of almost organized cleavage, the great movement over the American continent towards a higher form of University work was already fairly under way. Cornell and Johns Hopkins had just been founded, Harvard and Yale were placing their work on a higher plane, and many other universities were feeling the stimulus of their example. Our Canadian Colleges, for not one of them at that date had advanced beyond the status of a College, at least in their Arts work, felt the impulse of the new life but were one and all without the means to attempt the advanced work. Even University College, with its staff of fifteen or sixteen men all told, was confined in its work to such accommodation as could be found inside the walls of the present Main Building, and found itself without the means for the buildings, equipment and staff needed for the larger work. In Faraday Hall, Victoria had as good and modern an equipment for scientific work as was then to be found in the Province of Ontario, but that did not extend beyond the modest requirements of the B.A. course.

All men engaged in University or College work at that time were aware of the pressing needs of the country and were convinced that those needs could be adequately met only by united action, and for that purpose the federation of the Colleges of Ontario was proposed in a truly Provincial University. It is sometimes said that federation