

Current Topics and Events.

OUR EDUCATIONAL WORK.

We have no sympathy with the opinion of those who think that Methodism has neglected her educational work in this land. From the very beginning the fathers of Methodism, both in the old world and the new, perceived the vital importance of promoting higher education, both secular and theological. Nearly half a century ago, when the State institution of higher learning in this province was closed to all except the adherents of a dominant Church, the fathers and founders of Canadian Methodism—poor in this world's goods but rich in faith—out of their meagre incomes established the only university in the country free to all without sectarian tests or conditions. Its record has been an honour to our Church. A large proportion of its ministers have received their scholastic training within its walls. Its 463 graduates in arts have enriched professional, public, and private life with some of their most distinguished ornaments, and have largely moulded the institutions and formed the Christian sentiment of Canadian society.

The honourable record of Albert University, and in the Eastern Provinces the influence of Mount Allison University, with its 110 graduates in arts, have been similarly potent. To the graduates of these institutions must be added, as an important factor in their educational result, the thousands of students who did not proceed to a degree. The successful Ladies' Colleges at St. Thomas, Hamilton, Whitby, Belleville, Stanstead, Sackville, and the Institute at St. John, Newfoundland, with their five or six hundred students, are also exerting a most powerful influence on the future homes of our country.

The position and importance of Methodism would be far different from what they are to-day if the record of its educational institutions were blotted out. The marvel is

that in a comparatively young country, where there are few hereditary or accumulated fortunes, so much should have been accomplished by Canadian Methodism for higher education. But with the increasing numbers and resources of our people, and the higher standard of educational culture of our times, it is necessary that still more should be done. If the Methodists of to-day exhibit the same enterprise and energy in proportion to their ability as those of fifty years ago, the urgent claims of the Educational Society of our Church will be fully met. The Report of that Society for 1885, by its energetic Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Burwash, is now before us. "Never," it says, "in the history of Canadian Methodism was our educational work more important than at the present time. The consolidation of our churches in all parts of the land has given us greater relative prominence and influence in the community, and calls more loudly than ever for trained men in all departments of Church work.

Whether Victoria maintains her present position of independence, or enters into a provincial system of University Confederation, she needs immediate and large reinforcement of men and means. The enlargement of her staff to twelve or thirteen professors must be provided for, if she is not to recede from the high rank attained by years of earnest and successful toil. An annual deficit also reminds us that her resources are not adequate to the maintenance of even the present staff."

There are two ways of supplying this need: First, by creating a large invested endowment; second, by securing a largely increased annual revenue of the Educational Society. As the alumni and other friends of our educational institutions accumulate property we may anticipate large sums for endowment, and also from the bequests of those who pass away. But the second method