

## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY.

By the time these words reach our readers the Rev. Dr. Gordon will have taken the reins in hand as the new Principal of Queen's University. He will receive a hearty welcome by the staff, students and the citizens of Kingston; and although the formal installation will not take place until a later date, there is much work of a practical kind that needs to be done. A large institution such as Queen's University has now become, possesses a varied internal life and has complex relationship with the outside world. Principal Grant left a real living University which is not dependent upon any one man or any one faculty, for its continued vigorous existence. Hence the new Principal is not called to the work of making a university in the same sense as was the case a quarter of a century ago. But that means that there is all the greater need for a wise, scholarly, Christian gentleman at the head of affairs. The Principal is the head of the institution, the bond between the many members of the staff, the chief to whom the students look up, the representative of the colleges to the government the church and the outside world. In the performance of these varied and important duties THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN wishes for Dr. D. M. Gordon success of the highest kind.

There is no need to depreciate the great work of Toronto University, or to despise the effort of any other College, in order to recognize that Queen's has become an important educational centre in the Province of Ontario, and especially for the Eastern part of the Province. The government has already to some extent acknowledged this and will we have no doubt continue to do so. The late Principal always insisted that the main thing about a university was its men and not its buildings. Still it may be noted as a sign of the vigorous activity in connection with Queen's at the present time buildings are in course of erection which, when complete, will have involved an expenditure of about a quarter of a million dollars. Truly this is no small sum for a Province like ours, especially when we remember that there has been no Rockefeller or Carnegie to give generous aid. A handsome sum has been given by the government towards the science buildings; and this aid may be said to be well merited when we remember that the students have subscribed about thirty thousand dollars, and the city of Kingston gave a building that has cost fifty thousand; while the University itself has undertaken increased expenditure for equipment and teaching. In these matters it is the practice of wise governments to help those who help themselves; in England, for example, Imperial aid is used to encourage local effort. As Principal Grant used to point out each case must be taken on its own merits; and if another university were to arise elsewhere with the same strength it will have equal claim on public support. It will be a sign of real progress that there is great activity in higher education. Though practically non-committal Queen's has still close and

friendly relations with the Presbyterian church; and the new Principal is a man who, while enjoying the respect of the larger public, is fully trusted by his Presbyterian brethren. The problems that have in this connection to be solved need not be treated hastily; they demand careful consideration, and all impartial observers will credit the authorities of Queen's with a desire to be faithful to the best traditions of the university, and to consider carefully the claims and interests of all concerned.

## THE CASE OF DR. WILKIE.

The announcement of a meeting in Toronto, last week, of friends of Dr. Wilkie, reminds us that there has been dissatisfaction, more or less widespread, with the action of the last General Assembly, in severing Rev. Dr. Wilkie's connection with our missionary work in Indore, after twenty-one year's service there. Fresh and fuller light, it is claimed, has come to hand, which, had it been before the Assembly, would have changed the course taken. Meetings have been held of those who desire that Dr. Wilkie's connection with our work in Indore, should be continued, at least until this fresh information can be laid before next Assembly. An influential committee has been appointed to lay Dr. Wilkie's case before the Foreign Mission Committee; but so far, apparently, not much has come out of this action. The whole matter has awakened considerable feeling, and the course of proceedings is being watched with much interest.

It is well known to the whole church that almost since its inception, there has been friction in the working of this mission field, and apparently it is getting no better. While of course every instance of disagreement among missionaries, or between them and the Foreign Mission Committee could not be made public, and should not be, yet we cannot but feel, that, in a case of such long standing and which has reached the stage which this has, there has had been altogether too much reticence, and mystery maintained as to this case by the Foreign Mission Committee. The mission is the mission of the whole church, and since it has to supply all the means for carrying it on, it has had certainly a right to know with some degree of fullness and preciseness exactly what is the trouble.

## THE CRITIC'S CORNER.

## Independence And Journalism.

Sometime ago I noted the retirement of Mr. Willison from the Globe for the purpose of pursuing his journalistic career on a more independent line. After due acknowledgement of the great ability of the Globe's retiring editor, it was pointed out that the path of independence is a difficult one in a country where party zeal is so strong and where parties are so evenly matched. Still I was glad to welcome the new movement, as anything is better than stagnation, and we must be grateful to the men who seek to save us from being victims to "machines" of any kind. Now, however, the Globe has made an effective reply by calling to its office a man who up to this point might be counted as one of the strongest representatives of independent journalism. Speaking

for myself, I do not think that the Rev. J. A. Macdonald does justice to the situation, in the following words of his valedictory:

"I am quite aware, that to some thoughtful and earnest persons, my decision to leave what is called religious journalism for what is called secular journalism, and to assume the control of a newspaper, more or less closely identified with politics, is a somewhat doubtful proceeding."

The former editor of the Westminster does not here show his usual precision and force. With the more "thoughtful" people, as he knows well, it is not a question of "secular" and "religious." The Westminster dealt with things secular and often referred to politics. That is not the point. The point is, does it look like a worse move for a man to leave an independent position, which he had himself created, a position which gave considerable influence in Church and State, in order to become the editor of a party paper.

The Globe is, of its kind, a first class journal, and I have every respect for the ability with which, in recent years it has been managed; but the fact remains that it is a party organ and does not claim to be in the fullest sense, "independent." We must have parties and party-newspapers; and it is important that both the party organizations and their journals should be kept as clean as possible. But after all, many people who cherish the highest ideals, question whether a man, who has gained an independent position can increase his usefulness by taking charge even of the Globe.

Notwithstanding the new and "absorbing" duties, Mr. Macdonald promises to take a paternal interest in the journals that he leaves; and he frankly adds: "I shall retain my present interest in the 'Westminster Co.' and hold myself ready to promote the success of its enterprises." So in that direction all will be well. When we are told that "The greatness of the opportunity, and its criticalness cannot be denied," we are not quite certain what is meant. Surely the Globe is a great journal, that has lived through many changes, and it can hardly be said to be in a "critical" condition. It was, of course, important for its managers to secure a good man to succeed Mr. Willison; but we are not called to believe that Canada has only one suitable man for such a post. If there is a "crisis," it is in Mr. Macdonald's career as a journalist. The change may mean increased power for himself and larger influence for the company, with which he is identified. What was the proper course to pursue, was a matter entirely within his own right, and we have no intention of criticising that action. But it is quite within our province to remark, that it is not the change from so-called religious to so-called secular journalism, that has perplexed Mr. Macdonald's most ardent admirers. They were puzzled at first to decide whether the change was an ascent or descent; but many of them came to the conclusion, that without any disrespect to the Globe, it meant a loss to the Church, a loss of freedom to Mr. Macdonald, and, so far as the community at large was concerned, a questionable gain. A great concern like the Globe, cannot very well be annexed to the Westminster Co., and the man who controls a large daily journal, will prove himself to be both a giant and a genius, if he can spare much energy for anything else. However, that is not my affair. I simply wished to help in putting the matter exactly as it appears to many "thoughtful" people.