

SYMPOSIUM ON THE "UNIVERSITY QUESTION."

AT one of the Conferences, held Feb. 11-16, the Principal asked for a frank interchange of views on this question, and suggested that the article which was published in the last *QUEEN'S QUARTERLY* might be taken as a text for comments or criticisms. We give a summary of the remarks made by the principal speakers on the occasion. Dr. Watson opened the discussion as follows :

"Principal Grant, in his article on the University Question, strikes the true key-note when he says that the real question is 'what is for the interest of the Province as a whole,' and, again, 'whether our higher education, which in the long run moulds and inspires our system, shall be encouraged to develop freely.' This last statement is even truer than it obviously is. All applied knowledge rests upon the study of *principles*. This is one thing the Germans have understood, and therefore their whole system encourages emulation in the study of principles. Except by an exceptional gift of nature, progress has always been made through the instrumentality of men who have begun with a thorough study of principles. This applies to humane studies, as well as to the special sciences. The heart of University study must therefore always be a thorough grasp of principle. And it must be disinterested. This must be emphasized, because there is a prejudice abroad that it is not principles, but merely their special application, that we ought to teach our young men and women. No doubt we must teach applications, but unless we encourage the study of principles, we shall never produce scholars and scientific men of the first rank, and must continue to occupy a subordinate place among the civilized nations of the world. Nay, the present low ideal of education will be more and more accentuated, and will ultimately exclude even the remnant of a higher ideal which still makes itself felt. No one who has the real interests of Canada at heart can contemplate with any complacency the dying-out of men who love truth for itself and are prepared to make large sacrifices for it.

What is the present state of things? President Loudon