

to yield a revenue sufficient to meet the expenditure of the several colleges. The territorial principle, at present in operation, does not elicit the full sympathy of all the congregations. A very considerable portion of the strength of the late Synod connected with the Church of Scotland has been set apart to contribute to the maintenance of Montreal College. For upwards of a generation their associations have been linked with—their sympathies have been enlisted in favour of Queen's and it takes time to divert these into a new channel. They cannot at once wrench themselves from the old and transfer their allegiance to the new. Hence they do not give as largely as they might be expected to do and as they probably would do, if they were permitted to move on in the old groove. So also, we find the obverse of this in the constituency marked off for the support of Knox and Queen's. In the western part of Ontario, beyond Hamilton, the mass of Presbyterians were connected with the late Canada Presbyterian Church. Those belonging to the Kirk were inconsiderable in number compared with the adherents of the other body. As a consequence, many of these deem it irksome to be called on to contribute to the maintenance of Queen's, even though the quota which it requires is so much smaller than that devoted to Knox. Thus, though Presbyterians all the world over appreciate and insist on a highly-educated ministry—though those of all shades in this country have, notwithstanding its newness, put forth noble efforts and made glorious sacrifices in the cause of higher education, yet an annual deficit seriously affects the finances of the several colleges, inasmuch as the present scheme does not develop to the full the sympathy and interest of the varied branches composing the United Church in favour of a suitable equipment of our Theological Halls.

Two other schemes have been suggested, the authors of which claim to be more likely than the present to raise an adequate revenue for all by means of the annual collection. One is to abolish the territorial line of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway and have a common Fund for the maintenance of the three colleges in question. One good end might thus be accomplished. It would apparently remove the main occasion for unseemly wrangling and heartburning about insufficiency of territory, which now disturbs the harmony of the deliberations of the Assembly's Committee on colleges. We say *apparently*, because we think that in reality it would not do so. The ground would simply be changed. A conflict of opinion would inevitably arise as to the basis on which this one fund should be distributed. On their respective claims? What constitutes these? The age of the institution, or the number of its students, or the quality of its training? Or must the necessities of each be the basis of apportionment? This standard implies that the equipment of all should be alike—that the staff of professors in the several seminaries should be equally strong or equally weak. Another objection to this scheme has been mooted. At present the *local* element largely contributes to swell the revenue. Remove this stimulus, and each centre might fail to work its giving power to the utmost and might thus throw on all sections of the Church generally, whether more or less benefited, the support of the various colleges. A falling off from the present revenue, inadequate as it is, would thus certainly result.

The other scheme, which has been proposed in some quarters, is this:

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