

Upon my word, in future ma'am I much obliged shall be
 If tittle-tattle such as this you'll not repeat to me;
 To keep us out of mischief 'tis by far the safest way
 For each to mind his own affairs, and not what people say.

Now if, like my friend Mrs. Clack, you've in your head a
 tongue
 That waggles when it shouldn't, like a gate that's badly
 hung,
 You'd better get it fixed at once, or else to your dismay
 Some ugly things about yourself you'll find that people say.

UNIVERSITY FEDERATION.

The subject of University Federation has, from the time of its first proposal, been regarded with very divided feelings throughout the Province of Ontario. It was at first thought that Trinity College, or the majority of the supporters of Trinity College, almost stood alone among the representatives of the Universities in their repugnancy to the notion of sinking their individuality as a University. This has turned out to be a great mistake. First of all, Queen's pronounced decidedly and almost unanimously in favour of retaining their present position. Still more remarkable was the new attitude of the Principal of Victoria. Dr. Nelles had been, on the whole, an ardent advocate of federation; but lately the difficulties appeared so great in the way of obtaining what he regarded as fair terms for his College, that he declared himself finally opposed to the contemplated change. One factor, however, had not been sufficiently considered. The moneyed men were in favour of the incorporation of Victoria College in the University of Toronto, and at present it seems almost certain that the thing will be accomplished.

As far as Trinity College is concerned, it would appear that the idea of incorporation has been practically abandoned. From the beginning the scheme was regarded with great disfavour by many of the older graduates; and as several of these became reconciled to it, new difficulties began to appear. The Government of Ontario, although quite ready to grant an excellent site in Queen's Park, professed themselves unable to do more. They could not make grants for the purpose of denominational education. We might easily argue, in regard to this theory, that the case was so peculiar that it could hardly be called a violation of the general principle. But this view was not likely to be adopted by the ministers or their supporters.

It was impossible—or so it appeared—for the governors of Trinity College to sacrifice their valuable pile of buildings without compensation; and no enthusiastic churchman came forward, as with the Methodists, to lead the way in subscribing the very large sum of money that would have been required to effect the change. For the

present, therefore, it may be said that Trinity College has no more to say on this subject. It may, of course, be taken up again at some future time; but this is not very probable. As our buildings are enlarged the difficulty will be greater and greater, and the chances are very much in favour of the *status quo* being maintained.

In this case it may be well to look around us and to ask whether we have not some cause for congratulation, if also for regret, that the matter has thus ended. There are, we imagine, some reasons for regret upon which we need not here enter. It may be more useful to dwell for a moment upon some of the reasons which may induce us to look with satisfaction upon our maintaining our old position.

Apart from the fact that we enjoy a more perfect autonomy, we may say that we have a greater power of contributing something distinctive to the sum-total of the education of the country. Some people, whether out of friendly interest or hostile jealousy we do not know, have spoken of Trinity College as having a non-Canadian tone and atmosphere. This we utterly deny. Trinity College is thoroughly loyal to the country for the sake of which it has its existence, absolutely loyal in its sentiment and in its work. The purpose of its whole constitution and the aim of all its arrangements is to prepare men for life and work in Canada. If some of its teachers were born in the old world the same can be said of some of its students, and of a considerable proportion of the inhabitants of the Dominion of Canada. But, whilst they may have an English education, they are loyal Canadians; and they understand Canada quite as well as their neighbours do, and are as thoroughly *en rapport* with the spirit of the people among whom they live.

On the other hand, however, we do as a College possess certain peculiarities of our own. For instance, a larger proportion of our students are resident than in almost any other College in the country. Then we are a Church of England institution, resting upon the broad basis of Anglican doctrine, discipline, ritual, neither regarding these things as indifferent nor adopting any party platform apart from the general requirements of the Church. Besides, we have a history of our own, and this to a certain extent determines the tone and tendency of the College, and the atmosphere in which we live. For these reasons we are able to make an independent and distinct contribution to the education and intellectual life of the country.

It was remarked to the writer of the present article by an able member of the Legislature of Ontario that the great defect of this country and of the present age was Individuality. Every one who has lived on both sides of the Atlantic must have felt the truth of the remark. Whether for good or for evil, on the one side or the other, the difference is unquestionable and remarkable. On this side men are a great deal more cut to one pattern. Partly this has arisen from the much smaller number of classes