

as the appropriate sphere of the denominational colleges; or, as another eminent educational authority recently pointed out, as the sphere of the *country colleges*. Such a position the Christian Church cannot afford to occupy. Such a position I am persuaded the Methodist Church of this country will not consent to occupy. Christianity must make its influence fully felt at the very fountain head of our higher intellectual life. And, unless I am mistaken, Methodism is determined to do her full share in this great work.

It has been one of the standing complaints of the opponents of federation that it will reduce the field of work open to us. The whole tenor of Mr. Allen's argument is to show how little is needed for independence. All that we need is a little cheap apparatus and a few cheap books (and he would not, I am sure, think of adding a few cheap professors), and we can have an independent university. We can dispense with all our options and limit ourselves to two courses, a literary and a scientific. That is true. We can do that. But if we do it, our graduates will be excluded from the teaching profession, we will lose our students, and our position will be very speedily reduced to that of a "mere theological school," and that in a little rural town. No. Wherever we do our work, and under whatever policy, we must provide for our sons all that can be had elsewhere. We must furnish them with no cheap mediocrity, but the very best that the land can afford. And it is the chief advantage of federation that it will enable us to do this more efficiently, more economically, and with a wider influence for good, both to our country and to ourselves, than any other scheme.