

ment of hope or of apprehension. The confederation of all denominational and other colleges of this Province, aimed at more than once in previous legislation, had anew been proposed; and the results of protracted deliberations had been reported to the provincial executive and submitted to the corporations and churches represented at the previous conferences. Now we are able to look upon the scheme from a wholly different point of view. Some who shared in the deliberations, and thereby encouraged the hope of arriving at a basis of union acceptable to all, have withdrawn. But to-day we welcome, in the Chancellor and other members of Victoria University, the representatives of a large and influential denomination which proposes to join forces with us in a united effort for the advancement of higher education in Ontario. A competition of rival universities for the conferring of degrees can never be favourable to a high standard of education, whatever benefits may result from colleges seeking to rival one another in the educational advantages they offer. It was inevitable that in the early stages of our conference with them, the representatives of denominational colleges should regard this institution with jealousy, and that demands made by them under such feelings should be distasteful to us. So long indeed as their attitude was one of antagonism this was inevitable. But now that the representatives of Victoria College, acting with the full authority of the General Conference of the Methodist Church, cordially entertain the proposal of union, it assumes an entirely new aspect; and we can look forward to a reconsideration of details without apprehension. They will find, I doubt not, that the view is wonderfully changed on looking at things from within instead of from without. It may indeed be likened to the conflicting per-

plexities in the schemes of older astronomers, when compared with the simplicity which Copernicus introduced, by directing their view to the true centre of our solar system. Nor will it perhaps be without a seasonable lesson for ourselves to recall what reception was extended by the theologians of his day to his grand disclosure. It is well that science and religion go hand in hand in advancing the progress of the world. Some of the noblest names on the golden roll of letters and science are of those who have most largely contributed to the harmonizing of their truths. But neither is benefited by being placed in undue subjection to the other. We take from the inspired page our motto: "Let there be light," and whenever science seems to conflict with revelation: let there be more light! Denunciations of doubt and repression of inquiry may impede research and retard discovery; but truth will triumph in the end, and when it does so all seeming conflict vanishes. Universities have ever been conservative; yet also they have been the centres of liberal thought, and of the most potent agencies for advancing knowledge and emancipating it from error. It is in this spirit that we desire to promote the confederation of the State university with denominational colleges. Their interests and ours will henceforth be one. The secular education which the state upholds by means of the university endowments has no sectarian character. In so far as it maintains the high standard which the Province has a right to exact from its teachers, it must prove equally acceptable to Catholic and Protestant, to Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist or Methodist. When it falls short of that high standard it will be the interest of all alike to have it reformed. Already our university confederacy embraces, with one exception, represen-