

interest for some who won academic honors in the early years of this college, and are now regarding with quickened sympathies the scene of their own youthful aspirations, under the happiest of all stimulants, as a younger generation steps into their place. It is, indeed, one of the happiest experiences of a long life, as the years hasten to its close, to welcome the sons of former pupils following their steps in these same halls, where once the father owned the stimulus of like aspirations :

An eager novice robed in fluttering gown.

But, in referring to the successive advances in the requirements from our students, I am reminded that the very censurers of the standard to which we were necessarily limited at the outset by the condition of the schools of the Province were those who advanced against us the further charge of monopolizing an endowment far beyond the requirements of this college. The disparagement of our standard of matriculation was a mere adjunct of the cry for division of the funds among denominational colleges. Happily, with a growing appreciation of the true requirements for such an institution, it is now acknowledged on all hands that what was then fancied to be a revenue ample for any number of colleges, is, in reality, inadequate for the full equipment of one, if it is to hold its place in fitting equality with the great schools of learning, either in the Old World or the New. Now, accordingly, the movement takes a more healthful direction, in the effort at formulating a scheme of united action, whereby, under some system of confederation among all colleges, Provincial and denominational, it may be found possible to utilize the national endowments still more effectually ; and, without interfering with voluntary efforts, or with the denominational restrictions which

commend themselves to the favour of some, to embrace all in hearty co-operation for the common aim of higher education.

In the protracted conferences of the representatives of various colleges, carried on for the past two years under the authority of the Minister of Education, I have borne a part ; and if any charge can be brought against me in reference to the course I have pursued, I think it must be that—as the representative of this college—I have been ready to make only too large concessions in the effort to accomplish so desirable a result. A basis of agreement was finally arrived at, and is now familiar to all. It was confessedly a compromise, as was inevitable where no statesman was prepared to undertake the framing of a wise and comprehensive scheme ; and, like all compromises, it has not entirely satisfied any one. It certainly does not commend itself to my unqualified approval. Some of the questionable results of the division into two distinct corporations of the University organized under the Royal Charter of 1827 have already been referred to ; but a further bisection is now demanded, the full significance of which is, I fear, even less definitely comprehended than that of 1853. The proposal to break up the small staff of this college into two bodies, as a college faculty and a university professoriate—classified on no logical system, but confessedly arranged on a basis suggested by the still more inadequate equipment of certain confederating colleges—seems to me a scheme which, whether expedient or not, can commend itself to no impartial mind as comprehensive or statesmanlike. Nevertheless, if it is left open to revision under the dictates of experience ; and the compromise, as agreed to, is carried out as a whole in good faith, I am prepared to give it a fair trial and to co-operate in the