

## UNIVERSITY FEDERATION.

SINCE the General Conference of 1886 this MAGAZINE has not discussed the principle of University Federation, because we considered that that was no longer an open question. We considered that a final and irrevocable decision upon this subject had been reached by the emphatic vote of the highest court in our Church, after a full and free discussion of three days. We do not now think it an open question. We deem that our Church is fully and finally pledged to the principle, and that it cannot, without dishonour, violate its pledges. But it may not be amiss to briefly recapitulate some of the considerations which, notwithstanding the able and eloquent speeches of influential opponents of Federation, led the General Conference to so unequivocally decide in favour of the policy of Federation.

Upon the decision reached by the General Conference most important issues depend. Now that the Government of the Province has made provision—in the only way we think in which provision can be made, without doing violence to the principles and deep-rooted convictions of many thousands of Methodists in this land—whereby Victoria University may share to the full all the advantages possessed by the national university, we cannot imagine any adequate ground on which that provision should be rejected. It has been estimated that an endowment of \$4,000,000 would be required to duplicate those advantages. Even if it were possible to secure such duplication would it not be mid-summer madness to attempt it? Yet who will propose that the Methodists of this country should accept as a provision for the higher education of their sons anything inferior to the very best the country can afford? That very best is a very expensive thing. The State of California is equipping a university with an endowment of ten millions. Senator Stanford is endowing a university in the same State with fifteen million

dollars. Cornell, within a few hours' ride of Toronto, will soon have an endowment of ten millions. Public opinion will sustain, we think, any Ontario Government in thoroughly equipping our national university. And if we repel the opportunity now offered of federation with that university, we shall be forever estopped from objecting to the granting of such State aid to the State university as it may require.

We think that the friends of denominational universities will admit that if such a broad, catholic, unsectarian Provincial University had been in existence in 1841, it is not at all likely that Victoria University would ever have been established. And now that what public opinion generally deems to be an equitable and honourable plan for the federation of Victoria University with the Provincial institution has been arranged, it should be rejected for only very grave considerations. It requires not much argument, we think, to show that a much stronger, better equipped and effective university can be created by such federation than by the maintenance of separate and rival institutions. Every branch of human knowledge has in recent years wonderfully expanded. New departments of science have been practically created. "The thoughts of men have widened with the process of the suns." Any institution at all worthy of the name of a university for the twentieth century, on whose threshold we now stand, with a curriculum embracing every branch of human knowledge, must be a very different institution from anything the country now possesses.

Shall we be doing justice to the Methodist youth of this country, of the present and future generations, by standing aloof from this movement for the founding of a national university, under pronounced Christian auspices, which shall be worthy of the foremost province of this Dominion, and the peer of any university on this continent? The