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Editorial Topics.

SELF-DEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL themes are those which have UNIVERSITIES. of late been mainly interesting the public mind. In Ontario we have just emerged from a Provincial election in which the management of Education in our public schools has been largely used for the framing of "party" cries, and "political bias" has been set in judgment on the primary education of our children. The class room of the school has been invaded by the politician, and become the arena for agitation and strife, either in laudation or attack of our party rulers. These are signs of the times of which it would be well we should take notice as being forewarnings of what may arise from a too intimate and increasing connection between Political Government and University Education. In England, the mother land from which this Continent has drawn its inspiration for mental advancement, the system of higher study has ever been characterized by thorough independence of thought, and the complete dissociation of the University from any Governmental or Political control. University government and University teaching have been guided from within the University itself, and not from any power without. Following the lead of Oxford, of Cambridge and of Dublin in the older land, all of whom are self-governed, self-endowed and self supported, so in the eastern and older portions of the United States, Yale, Harvard, Columbia and all the highest and most successful Universities, are the product of the enthusiasm of their founders, followed by the continued interest of the members of the Christian communities to which they are attached. Depending thus on themselves, subservience to the Government of the day, or the moulding of the University course of action so as to secure the support or avoid the hostility of any Minister of the State, or of any political party in power is foreign to their history or existence. The free unbiased education of the higher talents of their people is the sole cause by which they are animated. So, too, in Canada we have Universities founded upon like basis. McGill's, Trinity, Victoria, Queen's, all drew their first origin from the determined intention of their founders that the youth of Canada should be afforded academic education upon the same high models and upon the same independent system that had proved its value in the older lands. Their endowments have been the free gifts of willing adherents, and their work mapped out with all the vigour of independent energy devoted solely to the advancement of the mental status of our land. The Christian communities, or denominations if you will, to which they are attached, purposed that men should be educated not only to be citizens of the State, but also for a higher citizenship; that laymen, equally with those studying for the ministry, needed religious knowledge and training, as necessary components of their mental equipment, in fact then Higher education meant education for the Highest McMaster is this year added to the list of "Independent," or as they might better be termed "Self-Dependent Universities," and with the noble endowment granted by him whose name she perpetuates, will ere long prove her mettle in the field. In contradistinction to the system of England, of the Eastern States and our own earlier foundations, the Western States of the American Union have