

that laid the golden eggs. Briefly then, even if Ontario could begin with a clean sheet and combine all its resources on one University, it could not produce an Oxford, Paris or Berlin. But it cannot begin with a clean sheet, and it is all the better that it cannot. Wise men lived before Agamemnon; and wise men do not disparage the good work done by their fathers or throw away the accumulated sacrifices of fifty years. Besides, Ontario can do better than imitate the frog that would fain be a buffalo. It can recognize frankly and thankfully any good University within its borders. It may also offer to aid in the fuller development of those that have attained to the requisite standard of efficiency, and it can do so without sacrifice of any rational principle, and according to a policy equitable to different sections of the Province, and likely to stimulate local and voluntary effort. All can rejoice in the prosperity of any good institution, and, abstaining from sneers that could easily be paid back in kind, if it were worth while, can unite in seeking the common good.

On this whole subject of University centralization and of the duty of the State, the recent inaugural address of the President of the British Association may well be studied by us. Sir Lyon Playfair is a man of affairs as well as a man of science; and he spoke, knowing that he might soon be called upon to do all in his power to make his words good. He condemns the unwise parsimony of the British Parliament to Universities, in so far, more especially, as science is concerned. He cites the case of little Holland which, with something like the population of Scotland, gives to its four Universities about five times as much annually as the Imperial Parliament gives to the four Scottish Universities. Holland has double the population of Ontario. It gives to its four Universities nearly \$700,000 a year. How long would a Government stand with us if it proposed to vote one-seventh of such a sum annually? The cases of France and other countries are also most striking, but I refer you for particulars to the address itself. But while the President of the British Association calls on the Hercules of the State to put his shoulder to what is really the State's own wheel, he repudiates centralization and all its works. He calls out for self-governing Universities rather than for affiliated colleges, that "may be turned into mere mills to grind out material for examinations and competitions." He would not uproot even little St. Andrew's. He would strengthen the four Scottish Universities, and he hopes that the five in England may increase in due proportion to the population, by the colleges that have been recently established in different local centres developing into autonomous Universities. There are, he says emphatically, "too few autonomous Universities in England."

I have been speaking of the object we had, or ought to have had, in view during the recent discussions of the University question in this Province and of the confusion of thought on the subject, and the inadequate or false ideas entertained in different quarters. Coming now