

AFFILIATION.

The proximate object of the labours of the Commission was to investigate what foundation existed for the charges of "extravagant expenditure," and to suggest retrenchment, but they felt, that of even greater importance was the ultimate object of ascertaining, if with judicious expenditure of endowment funds, there may be such a system of affiliation inaugurated as will make the University thoroughly national, induce all the Colleges having University powers to unite upon a common platform, and thus permanently secure and largely extend the benefit of this noble Endowment, and the privileges of University education.

So long as the University and University College have no inducements to practice economy, there will, from the nature of things, be large expenditure without corresponding results; and so long as the other Colleges, having University powers, can see no advantage from affiliation, as is undoubtedly the case under the present system, they will not only decline to unite, but will inevitably continue to occupy a position of rivalry and of remonstrance.

Having been led to understand that the heads of Colleges were very desirous of a real instead of a nominal affiliation, one which would secure equal rights and privileges to all who affiliate, and also harmonize the great interests of higher education, a series of questions was addressed to them, with a view of ascertaining whether there were sufficient grounds of common consent and agreement, upon which to found suggestions for a satisfactory system of affiliation. [See questions 75, 76, 77 and Ans. App. Nos. 33 to 38.]

The replies in the appendix from the heads of University, Queen's, Victoria, Regiopolis and Trinity Colleges, prove that there is substantial agreement, and the same questions having been further submitted to the Senate in which the above Colleges as well as the denominations without Universities are represented, the response was quite in harmony with returns from the individual heads.

The result of this plan has been so far satisfactory and gratifying. Each interest has been consulted and no difference of opinion discovered, but such as, with a spirit of accommodation (and in view of the substantial benefits to be secured to our general educational interest), may be easily adjusted.

The Commissioners, therefore, suggest the basis of a system of affiliation, chiefly drawn from the replies referred to above, which they believe will satisfy the Country generally, and most effectually promote the cause of higher education.

SUGGESTIONS.

SENATE.

That the Senate be reconstituted, and consist for the future of a fixed number, viz: 1st. The heads of affiliated Colleges. 2nd. One member