

It is suitable and in harmony with our feelings, that we should here to-day, and from this Convocation platform, congratulate these sister institutions on the benefactions thus received, and the consequent increase of their efficiency. Our material prosperity, our advancement in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, should be accompanied by progress in all higher interests. The resources of the Dominion are being largely employed, and no doubt wisely employed, upon railways, immense and never-ending railways; yet man does not live by railways alone, however long or expensive they may be, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, which includes especially the moral and intellectual development of the people, for the Divine Word tells us that "wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of our times and strength of salvation."

Nor can I sympathize with those who fear that we shall educate too much, that we shall be over-stocked with scholars, and that literary and professional pursuits will draw our youth unduly away from agriculture and commercial occupations. Let farmers and merchants be also educated, and as highly and wisely as possible. Distribution of employment will regulate itself, according to the great law of supply and demand, and other natural conditions. All experience shows that while elementary education needs to be insisted on and made almost compulsory, higher education requires to be encouraged to the utmost.

Nor is there much occasion to fear that we shall have too many colleges; at any rate I do not see that we have too many now, although this great Methodistic Union, if it should come about, as I hope it will, may render it feasible and wise to merge into one two of those now in operation. The great educational need of the Dominion in time to come will not be centralization so much as diffusion—not merely the creation of a few eminent scholars, important and desirable as that may be, but the general enlightenment and elevation of the community at large. And in an extensive country like Canada, or the United States, this general enlightenment will be best promoted, at least in the higher branches of learning, by a system of outlying seminaries and colleges scattered throughout the land, providing education for youth of both sexes, and diffusing and *christianizing* that education through the co-operation and direct instrumentality of