

Throughout the circling ages and the experience of mankind, no more excellent way has been found as yet to teach the children of God the saving truths of the Gospel.

The Church is sometimes accused of being too conservative, too set in her ways, but she has simply grown wise with her years; she must be convinced that a new method is really better than the old one before she will consent to change.

In this rapid, disintegrating, revolutionary age the Church has been a useful and wonderful factor in the preservation of all that is grand and pure and noble in Christian civilization. She that hath fed on bread will not be satisfied with a stone!

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The announcement made in the daily press that the Synod of Nova Scotia had adopted a resolution in favour of amalgamating King's College, Windsor, with Dalhousie, not only astonishes but also disappoints us extremely. We have not received any report of the debate or of the vote upon this matter; and are quite in the dark as to the reasons advanced in support of this policy. Respecting fully the wisdom and decision of the Synod we yet cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that a sad mistake has been made, and that if its decision be ultimately carried into effect, grievous injury must result to the Church; *Vestigia Nulla retrorsum* ought to be the motto of the Church in this land, but this action if approved will be going backward not by steps but by leaps and bounds. It appears to us a sorry comment upon the possession for a century of distinct and independent University powers that there must be, what is a virtual confession of inferiority and failure—amalgamation with an opposing institution distinctively Presbyterian in character and tone. Such a course will reflect little credit upon Churchmen in the oldest diocese in this new world, who thus fail to preserve and hand on to their successors intact the privileges they themselves received, and amongst them this, a University for the sound instruction in letters and arts,—and not in Divinity alone,—of the youth of the Church. In this Western part of the Dominion, the Presbyterian body has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the endowment of its College; strong efforts are being made also to largely increase the power and efficiency of Trinity College, Toronto, (impeded somewhat by the unwise division of interest and strength in the establishment and maintenance of as it were the fifth wheel of a coach), but notwithstanding the decision arrived at only a few years ago in Nova Scotia itself as to this very question, it would seem now as if in the Eastern section of the Dominion enterprise and energy in this respect at least, had died out amongst Churchmen. We trust that it is not yet too late to prove that this is a mistaken notion, and that a strong effort will be made to maintain the independent and full University powers and position of King's. Union such as proposed is not unlike "Union" in respect to chapels and meeting houses; and union chapels or Church in so far as we have known them never bring any good to the Church, and as a rule result in strengthening her opponents.

We would place our objections on general grounds to this proposal somewhat in this form:

[1]. It is a breach of duty towards those who succeed us, in not handing on to them intact the privileges and rights we received from those who preceded us. (2) It is a virtual confession of failure, and an abandonment of the field of secular education. (3) It leaves the youth of the country uninfluenced by distinctive Church principles at a period when such influence operates most effectively. (4) Though in name the teaching may be *non-denominational*, experience proves that the result is far otherwise.

THE *St John Globe* referring to it says:

The Synod of the Church of England, at Halifax, has pronounced in favor of a union of King's College with Dalhousie. The vote of the Synod does not of itself affect anything, but it cannot fail to have a tremendous influence upon the Board of Governors and those who control the Windsor institution. About four years ago the question was vigorously discussed at a meeting of the Alumni at Windsor, and the result was favorable to the maintenance of King's College. But the strength of Dalhousie, which is largely aided by the Province and liberally endowed by private persons, is greater than that of Windsor, and union seems to be inevitable. The old graduates of the Windsor institution have done comparatively little to maintain her, and while some few have labored for her she has had a severe struggle. The end will be that there will be one Arts course, that of Dalhousie, and the University of King's College will become a theological attachment of the provincial institution, in which the Presbyterian element at present prevails. (The italics are ours).

THE decision too seems peculiarly deplorable in view of the efforts being made through the Provincial Synod for a closer union of the Church of England Universities and Colleges in this Ecclesiastical Province. Alliances with either denominational or so called undenominational colleges do not lend strength to this movement. If King's, Bishops and Trinity cannot carry on successfully each its own work or if union be desirable why should it not be on the line of a Church of England University for the whole Ecclesiastical Province? Why should the young men of the Church be sent for their Arts' course to Institutions, if not inimical, at least not warmly in love with the Church's teaching and system? We do hope that the Board of Governors and Alumni of King's will as in the past, in loyalty to the Church, manfully "hold the fort,"—and that this retrograde movement may not succeed. We doubt not its advocates have advanced strong, (or what they consider strong), reasons in support of it, but we are at a loss to understand how they succeeded in persuading the Synod to accept them.

THE decision to amalgamate contrasts strongly with the following from President Brock's address at the last *Encenia*:—

The Maritime Provinces of Canada, however, ought to support their own College. The Baptists who rally as a unit round Acadia; the Methodists who liberally support Mount Allison, put English Churchmen in these Provinces to shame. When will Churchmen, laying aside all party animosities, follow the example of their separated brethren in the interest shown, and in the support accorded to the only University in these Provinces which is pledged to uphold and teach the principles of our beloved Church.

And no less so with the concluding words of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese at the *Encenia*, as reported in the *Hant's Journal*:

It was absolutely necessary for all to be thinking, working, praying, and doing whatever we can for the greater success of *this institution*, and if we go home resolved to do this he was sure good results would follow. It should be the aim of all to obtain for *King's College* one of the *chiefest places among the educational institutions of the day*, and as the dark clouds of the morning had rolled away, brightening the afternoon and giving promise of a glorious sunset, so he hoped the clouds that were at present resting upon the University would soon be cleared away, giving promise of a glorious day.

And Mr. Hodgson's words reported in the same journal, are worthy of careful note in this same connection:

Many who had taken a deep interest in King's College had been called away, whose memory was cherished by the institution, but there still remained many others who loved the College and all connected with it, and whose aim it would be to assist in bringing up the College to a high state of efficiency and prosperity. To do this increased liberality was necessary, and he might say just here that he did not think the claims of this time-honored Institution were regarded in their true light by the people generally. Clergymen and many others who see the best side of human nature, do not seem to realize the terrible growth of unbelief in all classes of society. Lawyers too often see the dark side of human nature, coming in contact with men in all conditions of life; and he could say from personal experience that society was being permeated with agnosticism. How was this to be met? In no better way than for parents to see to it that their children received a sound Christian education, and to send them to a College where, as was beautifully expressed in the sermon of the morning, "the sacred science of theology still sits enthroned."

ANOTHER astonishing proposal is that disclosed in the address of the Lord Bishop of Montreal, through the correspondence between the Principals of McGill and the Montreal Theological College. In the light of history, and remembering the original foundation of McGill as a Church of England Institution, and its diversion to far different purposes the suggestion even of accepting from it *Divinity degrees* seems passing strange. But not more strange and ludicrous would the exercise by it be of a power long since abandoned, and which was rightly enough granted it when a *Church University*, viz: the power of granting degrees in Divinity. Secularized as it has been, and now nominally at least, wholly undenominational, having no religious color, A.B.D., or D.D., granted by McGill would possess little if any value; and, the Principal to the contrary notwithstanding, we fancy the Board of Governors of that Institution would think twice, and hesitate a long time before consenting to place themselves and the College in any such a ridiculous situation as that intimated as possible in the correspondence referred to. When the College ceased to be directly connected with any religious Body the discontinuance of this part of its original powers followed as a necessary consequence; and the reasons which led to this course at that time still apply. May there not be also some question as to whether after disuse, for a period we believe of over thirty years, these powers can be revived?