

doubt that a system of competing Universities, in various localities, will secure far better results than a single centralized University can possibly do.

Immense revenues are supposed by some to be indispensable to the existence of a great University. This idea is not merely delusive—it is positively vicious. It is admitting into the sacred realm of higher education the fallacy which is the curse of modern society, that everything should be measured by a money value. If the assumption is worth anything, it should be sustained by facts, and its advocates should be prepared to show that richly-endowed Colleges have uniformly contributed, in large measure, to the intellectual development of the race, and that institutions but poorly endowed have as uniformly failed. But can this be shown? Nay; does not the very reverse, as a rule, hold true? The most richly-endowed Colleges on this continent to-day are not those that are doing the best work, or the most. In the matter of revenues, however, extremes do the mischief. A University excessively endowed becomes luxurious, indolent and careless; a University insufficiently endowed is too poor to provide the necessary tools. But scholarship, which has often triumphed over poverty, has rarely or never been known to triumph over luxury. Endowments may be made to answer a good purpose, but vast endowments are by no means necessary to success. Given fairly commodious (not costly) buildings, well adapted for their purpose, good scientific appliances, and enough revenue to pay a fair salary to competent Professors, and all else that is needed to make a University a power in the land is—*brains*.

Another ground on which Confederation is urged is, that the association of students from all parts of the country, and from all Colleges, would have a beneficial effect upon their intellectual development. I am not so sure of that. Associate young men to a moderate extent, under good influences, and they become courteous and mutually helpful; associate them in masses, and they become a mob, with all a mob's fickleness, many of its vices, and more than its average passions. God's order is to set men in *families*, and no good end is gained by associating them in *herds*. Put a thousand young men into three Colleges, widely apart, and the effect upon both mind and morals will be vastly better than if you crowd the whole thousand into one College.