

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## UNIVERSITY IDEALS.

The following letter on the University of Toronto and its federated colleges is reproduced; with the writer's consent, from the *Mail and Empire*, of February 24th.

SIR,—As a graduate of the University of Toronto, anxious to see his Alma Matera great (not merely a big) university, and longing to see education lifted to a higher, broader, more imperialistic level, if one may so speak, I wish to thank you for calling the attention of your readers to this question in the admirable way in which you have done. Three main points seem noteworthy—finances, administration, and ideals; and the last is the most important. Money can do a great deal, administration perhaps more, but without lofty, generous ideals neither money nor administration counts for much.

"What Jowett did for Oxford" is exactly what we need, not one man, but four, five, or even more men, to do for Toronto. If I mistake not, Jowett never occupied any administrative office of influence in his university, but did his work mainly in connection with Balliol College, beginning as fellow and ending as master. His scholarship and literary work made him known to the outside world, but it was his interest in, and labours for, his students which made his college famous. As a participator in the inter-collegiate lectures, which are one of the chief features of Oxford and Cambridge, he conferred upon the university generally the benefits which would have been confined, but for the inter-collegiate lectures, to his own students. By all means, then, let us have Jowetts as many as we can find, but, that they may do Jewett's work, they must have like condi-

tions. In other words, we must have, not one large, unwieldy college, but a number of comparatively small ones, all working for a common end, but every one holding fast its own traditions and contributing to the common good out of its own strength of character.

It has been said in one of your interviews that Oxford cannot be reproduced here. I do not say that it is desirable that it should be, but I do say that whatever is good in British models we should adapt to our own different circumstances. In Winnipeg, where the university and the colleges are all younger than ours in Ontario, they have denominational colleges, all teaching the subjects of the arts course, working together by a system of inter-collegiate lectures, forming a real federation (all on an equal footing), and persistently refusing to adopt the plan advocated by some men here — that denominational colleges should confine themselves solely to theology. In this, as in many things, Manitoba is ahead of us, although we boast that ours is the premier province of the Dominion.

I am glad to hear, though, that in Latin a beginning has already been made in the direction of co-operation between University College and Victoria. My hope is that, as the theologians seem to be coming to the point where they can combine their forces to their own and their students' advantage, this beginning in Latin may lead to greater things—perhaps even to co-operation with Queen's and Ottawa. We have a large province, and we cannot afford to hold any but large views on educational questions above all others. Has any one thought yet what may be required in the way of universities for the