

students, as to render it advisable to organize a scheme for their higher education. In recent discussions on this subject the two essentially distinct questions of co-education of young men and women, and of the higher education of women, have been so confounded as to prove how very partially this important educational question has been studied. As to the wisdom and the great value of the latter I have ever entertained the strongest convictions; nor can I better present my views on the subject than by repeating the words addressed to a Toronto audience years ago. "There is no country in the world," I then remarked, "where woman enjoys more leisure and independent freedom of action than in this Province; emancipated as she is alike from sordid cares and from the oppressive exactions of social conventionalities. If men toil with even undue ardour in the pursuit of wealth, they are well content that sisters, wives and daughters enjoy its rewards. It is a new social organization in which, unconsciously, is being conferred on woman all which once pertained to the world's privileged orders. But let us not sacrifice thereby that womanhood which forms the fit counterpart to England's vigorous manhood. Let us not strive, as it sometimes seems to me is the result in neighbouring States, to clothe woman in all that is costly, surround her with all that is attractive and luxuriant, and then, leaving her to her own resources, exclaim:—'These be the lilies, glorious as Solomon's; they toil not, neither do they spin.' May we not rather look to woman for the true leisure class, for whom the great world of thought lies invitingly open as her legitimate sphere?" Such were my sentiments years ago, when the subject of the higher education of women had to be urged on public consideration; and such they remain, un-

changed. But to the idea of a true woman's college for Ontario, its Legislature has thus far given the negative; and I can only say for my colleagues, as for myself, that so long as co-education is the authorized system in University College it will be our earnest endeavour to make it accomplish for our fair undergraduates every advantage that the plan is capable of. That it is the best system few indeed have the hardihood to affirm. The Minister of Education, in his place in Parliament, has frankly stated that "if it could be had, he would prefer if something like Newnham Hall at Cambridge could be procured"; and, so far as appears, he expressed in this the unanimous sentiments of his colleagues; one of whom unhesitatingly condemned the plan of co-education, and protested against the disposal of so grave a question on mere grounds of economy. So far the question has been dealt with at the last moment with no apparent recognition of the gravity of the issues involved. I am reluctant to believe that a subject of such importance in its bearings on the future character and social life of our young country has received its final settlement on mere grounds of economy; or that it is vain to look among Canadian statesmen for men "too fond of the right to pursue the expedient." Economy, however is undoubtedly in favour of the present plan. Co-education is cheap; and while the little Anglo-Canadian minority in the Province of Quebec, who borrowed from our Toronto movement for the higher education of women the plan which they have successfully prosecuted till now, are furnishing to McGill College by private liberality the means for an efficient system of academic training specially adapted for its lady students, the wealthy Province of Ontario, which has hitherto prided itself on