

one who has paid any attention to the history of universities knows that there are many problems as yet undecided in relation to them, and above all that it is still a moot question whether a merely examining body like the University of Toronto, or a degree-conferring College like Queen's, Victoria, or Trinity, is most likely to promote higher education." This being the case, is it not a good thing for the country that—thanks to the degree-conferring Colleges named—the experiment is being fairly tried under both conditions, and that in any attempted reorganization of University work, the country may avail itself of the advantages of both systems? The one thing difficult to understand in connection with present positions on the question is an apparent unwillingness to have the subject considered by the Legislature. Mr. Morris' motion, we are told, can do no good, and even if his object is one that ought to succeed, he clearly went about it in a way most likely to cause failure. Why? Because he moved for the appointment of a committee of the House to consider the question, instead of desiring to have it at once relegated to a commission of "experts whose duty would be to visit the different Colleges in the country, and ascertain by means of correspondence what the experience of other countries has to teach, in order to be in a position to make suggestions either in the direction of consolidation, or in any other direction most likely to promote the great object in view, the elevation of the standard of higher education in Ontario." Surely, there is no incompatibility between the two methods of procedure. The one seems to us to be a necessary preparation for the second. Why appoint a Commission of Experts until something is known of the mind of the Legislature? The first step is to ascertain whether in the mind of the leading men on both sides of the House the ob-

ject contemplated is one that ought to succeed, and whether the present is a good time to raise the question. If this is determined satisfactorily one would imagine that any committee might be trusted to have brains enough to recommend the appointment of experts. However, we are quite willing to admit that there is a great difference between tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee.

What we are most anxious about is to put an end to the aimless, fusionless talk about University Consolidation in which every body seems willing to welter at each recurring "silly season," when the newspapers, having exhausted all other subjects, throw their columns open to builders of castles in the air. It is about time that the Government or the Legislature, or some other responsible authority, should grapple with the whole question, and let us know whether it is possible or not to bring about a better organization of the University work done in Ontario. If it is possible, and we see no difficulties in the way that public spirit should not be able to overcome, great would be the advantage, for it is now a universally recognized maxim that to improve the education of any country you must begin at the top. But we frankly confess that the greatest difficulty in the way is the spirit of localism that a portion of the Toronto press has done much to foster on the subject. No one who has not experienced somewhat of this spirit can properly appreciate its force. And because we have a faint conception of its extraordinary narrowness and animus, we consider that Mr. Morris has done well in calling the attention of the Local Legislature to the subject, since—unfortunately—the Dominion Parliament is precluded from taking any action on education. On a subject that concerns the whole Province the Provincial Legislature should have something to say.