

and the *penurious* attitudes assumed by the various localities of the Province.

It is not possible, of course, that every High School will become an Institute; but this is no reason why those who have attained, *earned*, I may say, the distinction, should be unfairly dealt with.

The fact is that every one of these "many High Schools," with 59 boys in Latin—(if it were possible for them to meet the *other* conditions of ranking as Institutes)—would, I can easily believe, *ALLOW one more boy* to take Latin—(not *force* him, of course)—and accept the honour thus *forced* upon them. Numbers of these schools are every year passing to the higher rank, not simply to grasp the \$750 as a fish would take a bait; for in many cases it involves great outlay on the part of the school. The true interests of secondary education could not be better served than by a reasonable multiplication of these centres of classical and general culture. The standard of education is not lowered thereby, as in the case of a superfluity of Universities, each of which may *fix its own standard*, and issue degrees corresponding thereto. This point in our work is carefully guarded, and the more Institutes the better, provided the people both *pay for them* and *fill them* with appreciative pupils.

To remove the bonus might not financially cripple some of the Institutes. Some others might lapse to former rank, which would be a calamity to the cause of education, in so far as the individual schools and their supporters were concerned. It would be a stigma and reproach upon any Legislature that would permit it.

Taken altogether the Whitby plea might naturally come from one whose school lies on the precarious border-land referred to—exposed to temptations to jealousy on the one hand, and possibly to feelings of disappointment on the other. This feeling, I think, could be most easily removed by an honest effort, on the part of all who entertain it, to raise their High School to the rank of an Institute. Once in this position, they would become *reconciled* to it, and lose sight of those "purely fictitious" distinc-

tions to which the Whitby paper now so deprecatingly refers.

Yours truly,

JUSTITIA.

January 17th, 1880.

UNIVERSITY CONSOLIDATION.

The friends of consolidation, or some form of amalgamation, will be pleased to learn, from the following communication, that the proposal is being quite favorably entertained by Trinity. The committee referred to by the writer was reappointed last August, and it is expected that the question will, in due time, be laid before the Minister of Education. In the meantime the several members of the committee could facilitate an early and definite consideration of the question by thus formally testing the attitude of their respective Universities on the subject.

To the Editor of the Mail.

SIR,—I see that the subject of University consolidation is occupying attention at the present time, and it may not be amiss to let the public know what has been and is being done to bring it about. In 1878, at the convention of High School masters, held in Toronto, the subject was under discussion. The general opinion was that before the Legislature could be induced to take the matter up, it would be necessary to present some scheme that had received the sanction of the different Universities in the Province. It was supposed that the Minister of Education should be invited to request the different Universities to appoint say three men each, to meet and confer with him, and such others as he might choose in drafting such a scheme. A committee was appointed to carry out the wishes of the convention. As a member of that committee I addressed a note to the corporation of Trinity College, Toronto, asking whether they could favour such a conference, on the understanding that the leading principles of the bill for University consolidation should be:—