

Concluding
considerations.

Future policy
of Toronto
University.

In bringing these brief remarks to a close, there are one or two further considerations of which we must take account.

The constitution of an University is similar to that of a State, in that it is never unchangeably fixed, but is always undergoing various modifications to meet continually new and changing circumstances. It is by no means probable that Toronto University will prove an exception to this rule. The great changes of recent years seem to indicate almost greater changes to come, so soon as Federation ceases to be of the nature of an experiment and becomes an accomplished fact. At the opening ceremonies of Victoria College, Prof. Goldwin Smith indicated one constitutional change in the growth of a continually increasing autonomy. The State has been the nursing mother of the University. So long as it was composed of a single college, this relationship was maintained, and its obvious advantages outweighed the possible and actual disadvantages of State interference.

But now with noble buildings and an adequate endowment, and above all with a number of Federated Colleges, the office of the State is approaching completion, and we may confidently look forward to a steadily increasing measure of self-government. Nothing could be less desirable than the prostitution of the University to the intrigues of machine politics, but even as things are now constituted it is not easy to see how a Federated College, electing its own Provost and professorial staff, could be injuriously affected, and the objectionable features of State interference will have a continual tendency to disappear, as the University itself grows more independent of its assistance.

It is by no means improbable that Toronto University will more and more approximate towards the pattern of Oxford and Cambridge. If the Federation experiment should prove successful, University College would attract a steadily diminishing number of students, and a day might come when its usefulness would be gone. The University would then consist of its professorial staff, its examining body, and its Science departments. This process might be furthered by the felt necessity of post-graduate courses similar to those of some American Universities.

Small Universities
must disappear
or lose their
influence.

The day of small Universities is past. In the vast territories of the United States and Canada with sparse populations, with imperfect means of locomotion, and with a more stringent spirit of sectarianism, which subordinated the interests of education to

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