

able unanimity of judgment as to his great life work, his work as a Christian minister, one of the early pioneers of this country, and as Chief Superintendent and founder of our system of public instruction. It is true there was some sort of system of schools before his time, but it differed as much from that which he introduced as the rude plays adopted in some instances by Shakspeare differed from the immortal dramas which he created. In him Victoria University has lost her ablest advocate, the Methodist Church our most distinguished minister, and Canada a public man not surpassed, if indeed he has been equalled, by any of those who have lived and died within the bounds of this Dominion. I may take occasion to congratulate the sister Universities of Canada on their growing strength and efficiency, and I heartily re-echo the sentiment expressed the other day by Dr. Young, of Toronto University, that the country is the better of a variety of colleges, and the similar expression of the Minister of Education for Ontario, as contained in his last report, in which he speaks of the denominational colleges as "testifying to the penetrating influences of religion in our educational system, and to that freedom of action which will preserve to our different institutions an individuality unknown in the uniformity prevalent in France and not absent in Germany." Certainly the example of Britain and the United States is against the system of consolidation, and it would be as unreasonable to work towards such an ideal in Canada as it would be to attempt the amalgamation of Oxford and Cambridge in England, or of Harvard, Yale, and Princeton in the United States. The uniformity of France has not been found to work well, and the extreme uniformity of China is certainly not recommended by the fact, recently alleged, that it is no longer possible to distinguish one Chinaman from another.

But while I to-day congratulate Canadian Universities on their growing efficiency, I am nevertheless also obliged to condole with them

on their common complaint of inadequate resources,—a complaint that comes even from our Provincial University, with her income of over sixty thousand dollars a year, and may, therefore, be still more reasonably expected from the less richly endowed denominational colleges. But, I trust, this financial distress will ere long pass away, as it has in the colleges of New England. Harvard was once poor, but has to-day an annual income of \$836,000; Yale had for many years to struggle with poverty, but to-day has an annual income of \$190,000, including \$110,000 from fees alone. Columbia College has an income of \$261,000, which is more than Christ's Church, the richest college of Oxford. The Wesleyan University of Middletown, which is only some fifty years old, and has had a history very similar to that of Victoria, has property to-day of the value of \$1,400,000, and a productive endowment of \$900,000. These facts should encourage us, more especially when we remember that these augmented resources have come from the private liberality of friends and the efforts of Christian churches, and not from the State. The churches of the United States have accumulated \$68,000,000 for higher education, and more than two-thirds of this sum within the last thirty years.

In regard to our Victoria, there will, I presume, be some further years of hard struggling before we shall be able to boast of an adequate endowment, but we shall not be discouraged on that account. Our hope lies in the soundness of the principles on which our University is founded, in the increasing number and wealth of our graduates, and in the strength and liberality of the great Methodist Church of this Dominion,—a church that numbers more than half a million of adherents, increasing, too, at the rate of some thirty per cent. in ten years, and raising \$150,000 a year for missions. Such a church, I am sure, is abundantly able, and will, ere long, be found willing to sustain her Universities and Theological Schools, and I will venture to say that this educational work is the one