

readers to conclude whether or not he has disproved one tittle of Dr. Burwash's statements of fact, or whether he has shaken one jot of his arguments.

We are struck with surprise in reading Mr. Allen's article, by its tendency—unconsciously to himself, no doubt, for he is a loyal man—to belittle and disparage the status not only of Victoria, but of all Canadian universities; or rather, if we understand him aright, to assert that they are incapable of doing university work at all. He discriminates, on page 460, between a college and a university, and quotes with seeming approval the *dictum* of President Hall, head of an exclusively post-graduate institution, "that colleges pretend to do university work, is, I think, hardly less than calamitous for higher education on our continent." Yet this is just what Victoria University, unless her very name is a misnomer and a sham, has been professing to do for a good many years.

In harmony with this belittling the character of Victoria and other Canadian universities, Mr. Allen quotes from the heads of institutions which have very large libraries and which are yet asking money for library extension, the statement that about \$5,000 is sufficient for a library for Victoria as an independent university. They have a very different idea at Toronto University, where they value the library recently destroyed by fire at \$150,000, and are endeavouring to procure another of not less value. In the few weeks since the fire over \$40,000 have been subscribed for this purpose, and 3,000 valuable books donated. Yale, with its 140,000 volumes in its library and its magnificent museums and apparatus, yet says she is "crippled for lack of funds," and asks for \$2,000,000 more for university work, a considerable amount of which will, doubtless, be expended in library extension.

Then for scientific apparatus, \$10,000 is considered by Mr. Allen a liberal estimate. The apparatus of Toronto University used for undergraduate work is estimated at \$25,-

000. No estimate at all is given by Mr. Allen for a biological museum, so absolutely necessary for biological studies, and yet costing so much to procure and maintain, probably not less than \$25,000 more. "Canadian universities," Mr. Allen assures us, "have been prompted by the spirit of competition to undertake work for which they are not qualified." Elsewhere Mr. Allen says (*Mail*, November 8, 1889), "For advanced courses her graduates (those of Toronto University) must go to the United States or Europe." But for the benefit of Canadian aspirants after higher education, we are told that "there are in the United States several universities which have from \$300,000 to \$400,000 annual income, devoted mainly to post-graduate work. . . Those universities 'moreover,' are easily reached from any point in Ontario."

"What," Mr. Allen asks, "are all the universities in Canada with all their specialisms, more than 'preparatory schools' to such a university as Johns Hopkins?" And he seems to imply that such they must remain, for when Chancellor Burwash tells us that "the advocates of federation have a post graduate course similar to that of Yale before their minds," and that this post-graduate course might be furnished in Toronto under federation within five years, so that it will be no longer necessary for our best young men to go to foreign countries to complete their education, Mr. Allen assumes a tone of utter scepticism of the possibility of such a thing, and says, "if it be only before their minds," I must beg pardon for refusing to believe it to be more substantial than "the baseless fabric of a vision."

If that is Mr. Allen's idea of the destiny of Canada for all time to come, we hope it is not very largely shared by patriotic Canadians. For our part, we believe and hope better of Canada than that. We believe, to use the language of Milton that "She is a nation not slow and dull, but of a quick, ingenious and piercing spirit; acute to invent, subtle to discourse, not beneath the reach of any point that human capacity can soar to."