

## FEDERATION

the establishment of a group of arts colleges sharing in common a faculty devoted to the more expensive scientific studies. The idea took firm hold of Chancellor Nelles's mind. It seems to have occurred about the same time to Professor MacVicar, of the Toronto Baptist College, an active and vigorous institution which soon afterwards developed into McMaster University. It may have come originally from Mr. Goldwin Smith. At all events Nelles seized upon it, and constituted himself its special advocate.

Dr. Nelles was an ardent man, of quick, sanguine, and perhaps hasty apprehension, of great enthusiasm, and apparently fond of canvassing and influencing others. He threw himself into the work, negotiated with Mr. Mulock, corresponded with the Hon. George W. Ross, the newly-appointed minister of education, canvassed the Trinity authorities, consulted Grant, and strove to influence his own denomination. Apparently as a result of his activity, Mr. Ross, in July, 1884, summoned a private conference of representatives of the universities and theological colleges of the province. The conference met on July 24th, adjourned till September, and met repeatedly until, on January 8th, 1885, the federation scheme was completed.

To Grant this turn of affairs must have been highly unwelcome. Every scheme of university reorganization broached at this period involved the idea of concentration at Toronto, the one thing