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TORONTO, NOVEMBER 4, 1886.

THE *Week*, remarks as follows on the affiliation of Victoria College: "It is a red letter day in the annals of Canadian education on which the first step is taken towards University Confederation by the transfer of the Methodist College from Cobourg to Toronto. The first step is not likely to be the last. Trinity College will, in time, find that its basis is too small for a separate University; the abler and the more active-minded are the members of its staff, the more conscious they will be of that fact, and though it seems to be anchored to its present site by its new and beautiful chapel, even that tie will hardly prevail in the end over the vital interest of the institution. Queen's will probably be more obstinate, but Queen's will come in at last. It cannot possibly hold its own in the end against a

great Provincial University. While Principal Grant lives, his vigorous personality will probably remain unsubdued. Then softer influences will steal over the heart of Queen's, otherwise Knox will expand and become the Presbyterian College. It is needless to rehearse the arguments which have prevailed in the case of Victoria, or to demonstrate again that a combination of our resources is indispensable to the production of anything really worthy of the name of a University. The lingering fear as to the danger to be encountered in the scientific lecture rooms of a secular University by religious faith will, we are persuaded, prove unfounded. At Oxford and Cambridge, the Universities of the Anglican Clergy, there is sufficient sensitiveness on this point, yet we are not aware that there has been any complaint, though the tendencies of scientific thought are exactly the same in these as in other professoriates. * * * The Province may be congratulated on the transfer of a body of students, destined to wield so much influence, from the close atmosphere and the dusky shade of the local Seminary to the free air and broad daylight of the National University. A special vote of thanks is due to Dr. Dewart and Dr. Potts, the latter of whom, we rejoice to see, has accepted the Educational Secretaryship of the Methodist body. It must be extended to Dr. Nelles, in spite of his mysterious change at the last.

THERE seems no end to the new subjects which theorists are trying to find a place for in the *curricula* of public schools. One day it is drawing, the next hygiene, the next temperance, the next "civics," the next short hand writing, the next industrial arts, the next "business." Where is it to end? On the subject of the introduction of short hand writing a writer in the *Weekly Leader*, waxes warm, thus:—"I have read with pleasure the discussion which has been going on, week by week, in your columns regarding the very important subject of education. It has

without doubt been a fruitful discussion, and in it, I think, your contributors have dealt with the idiosyncrasies of nearly all sensible systems of education. I have, however, been extremely disappointed at the little attention that has been paid to short hand. When the discussion first began I had great hopes that if one subject received more attention than another it would be shorthand: but the majority of your correspondents seem, I think, to have fought shy of ever mentioning it. The reason of this cannot surely be that they think it unworthy of a place in this discussion, or that it is not a fit subject to be included in the curriculum of educational establishments. On the contrary, I take it that it is due, firstly, to their lack of knowledge of the subject, and secondly (another indication of the conservative sentiments of the English people), their hesitation to accept anything new, and especially that of which they have not a thorough and complete mastery. The introduction and propagation of Mr. I Pitman's Phonography has been little less than an intellectual revolution. The good that the inventor of Phonography has done for education is immense, and the doors that a system of knowledge has opened out to young men is almost beyond belief. Years ago Mr. John Bright said that the public benefits to be derived from Phonography were incalculable. The truth of his remarks has been for a long time apparent; the public benefits that have been derived from it are almost beyond calculation. The times have changed, and to keep pace with them in this altered condition is an absolute necessity."

A SYSTEM of school farms we learn from the recently published report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, is in operation in Ireland. Their number at present is sixty three, in which 688 pupils were examined in agriculture last year. Dairy management is also taught in these agricultural institutions, and, apparently, with most gratifying results.