

desirability of variety in institutions of learning. It is well in the interests of individuality that there should be as many different systems of education as is compatible with good results. "By their fruits ye shall know them," is the test by which each must endure or perish. By the men and women who go forth from the university is its real value to be judged. Any adequate realization of the ideals so unobtrusively yet clearly adopted by this new university, implies, in the judgment of its boards and professoriate, complete freedom and independence. The higher education is too great and complex a thing to be accomplished at its best apart from such conditions. Any earnest and careful attempt to bring yet more fully into the arena of liberal education, forces and principles of proved value and large application, is of universal interest as a distinct contribution to the life of the nation. It should count for something that those whose record from far history to the present has ever attested their love of religious and civil freedom, both for themselves and for all men; who have with united voice affirmed that conscience is a vested right of the individual, that the state is simply a political corporation,

and is a usurper when it intermeddles with the great things of the human spirit,—it should count for something in the development of this Canada of ours, that a people of such belongings seriously put their hands to the work of university education. Independence opens to their students, without restraint, the pages of history, a boon of surpassing moment in liberal education. It opens wide the sacred Scriptures, and ensures that freedom of philosophical study which is limited only by the reverent and imperious claims of truth.

The first university founded under distinctively Baptist principles and ideals was Brown University; the most recent is Chicago University, unless, indeed, McMaster University may claim that distinction. Acadia University in Nova Scotia has for over fifty years done honor to the denomination under whose inspiration it has wrought in the interests of higher education in Canada, and one can hardly err in saying, that if present building accommodation, now overcrowded, be ere long provided for growing needs, he would be bold indeed who should set bounds to the influence of our youngest Canadian university.

