

is gratifying to be able to make mention, and it is only right and proper to make frequent and public mention of munificent gifts like those of Mr. McLaren to Knox College, the Hon. W. McMaster to the Baptist College, Mr. Redpath to McGill, Mr. Munroe to Dalhousie, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Dennis Moore to Victoria College. It is suitable and in harmony with our feelings that we should here to-day, and from this Convocation platform, congratulate these sister institutions on the benefactions thus received, and the consequent increase of their efficiency. Our material prosperity, our advancement in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, should be accompanied by progress in all higher interests. The resources of the Dominion are being largely employed upon railways, immense and never-ending railways, yet man does not live by railways alone, however long and expensive they may be, but be every word that proceedeth out of thy mouth of God, which includes especially the moral and intellectual development of the people, for the Divine word that tells us that "wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of our times and strength of salvation." How can I sympathize with those who fear that we shall educate too much, that we shall be overstocked with scholars, and the literary and professional pursuits will draw our youth unduly away from agricultural and commercial occupations? Let farmers and merchants be also educated and as highly and wisely as possible. Distribution of employment will regulate itself according to the great law of supply and demand, and other natural conditions. All experience shows that while elementary education needs to be insisted on and made almost compulsory, higher education requires to be encouraged to the utmost. Nor is there much occasion to fear that we shall

have too many colleges; at any rate, I do not see that we have too many now, although this great Methodist Union, if it should come about, as I hope it will, may render it feasible and wise to merge into one two of those now in operation. The great educational work of the Dominion in time to come will not be centralization so much as diffusion, not merely the creation of a few eminent scholars, important and desirable as that may be, but the general enlightenment and elevation of the community at large. And in an extensive country like Canada or the United States, this general enlightenment will be best promoted, at least in the higher branches of learning, by a system of outlying seminaries and colleges scattered throughout the land, providing education for youth of both sexes, and diffusing and Christianising that education through the co-operation and direct instrumentality of the several Churches. In that manner we shall best carry the spirit of the Gospel into our literature and philosophy, with their various departments of reading for the instruction or amusement of the people, and we shall at the same time impart to the popular religion something more of thoughtfulness and intelligence than it would otherwise have. It is preposterous in our day to regard schools, especially elementary schools, without the element of religion, as sufficient to secure those two great objects, or indeed to secure in any sense what is worthy to be called the education of a free Christian people. The safety of the State as well as the progress of true religion imperatively demand an acquaintance with many higher branches of learning, and demand also the wide diffusion of that learning among those great middle classes of society upon the morality and intelligence of which the public weal chiefly depends. When, therefore, Christian Churches under-