

cation, in all its grades, will be likely to receive a helpful and ever-increasing impetus, and a more intimate identification with the ambitions and aspirations of the national life.

There is, we believe, doubt of the scheme embracing Queen's University of Kingston, though decision on this point has not as yet, we understand, taken ultimate shape. Centralization can only effectively draw over a given area. There comes a point where its influences must lose their attracting power. When you get as far east as Kingston, the attracting influences of centres on the further side begin to draw, and you have two forces in operation of conflicting interest. The problem becomes difficult to solve, and other considerations arise, which carry increased weight in shaping the course of action. Just here is the *crux* for Queen's. More than any other outside college, has she local interests at stake, which demand serious deliberation before she commits herself to a decision. Like Toronto, Montreal, and other centres, she, from her geographical position, becomes a centre of her own, and to the area immediately about her, she owes the educational service which a vigorous, healthy, and long-established institution has in the past rendered, and in the present is still actively and efficiently rendering.

SCRIPTURE IN THE SCHOOLS.

THREE years since the President of the Ontario Teachers' Association took for the subject of his paper at the Annual Convention, the results of the various systems of education in the English-speaking communities in Europe and America. He examined more particularly those of the system in the United States of America as bearing directly on our own. The following year he took up the same theme, and pointed out the

unsatisfactory fruits of the school system in the United States, and also that these results would inevitably show themselves in Canada, the conditions being almost the same in the two countries. On both occasions, the members of the Association recognized the correctness of the sketch and the accuracy of the reasoning, passing resolutions affirming in cogent terms the danger impending, and asking that provision should be made to avert the evil, and secure a more healthy state of instruction in our Public Schools, especially in the important part of Bible reading.

The country responded. Many letters appeared and likewise many articles in the influential newspapers, most of them acknowledging the importance of the question under consideration, and urging the duty of having the Bible in all our schools without curtailing the reasonable liberty of any parent or scholar.

The matter was pressed on the attention of the Government in various ways, by deputations, resolutions of Synods, Conferences and General Assemblies. Apparently, on the part of the Government, there was reluctance to deal with the subject, for it has taken nearly three years to come to a decision. That decision we announced in the pages of this magazine last month. In this decision, though not all we wished, nor what the country asked for, we take much satisfaction. First, because the Ontario Teachers' Association took the initiative in the matter; and in the second place on account of the decision itself.

Every one who wishes true prosperity to this British Dominion, prays and labours for its permanent welfare, must rejoice in heart and spirit that the Government had to step out and affirm, at the request of the Christian people of this country, that the schools shall be opened with Bible reading and prayer. There is no mistake in