

affiliated Colleges, determining the relative and absolute proficiency of the under-graduates, and solely exercising within the Province the right to confer degrees. The other method would be for the Institution at Sackville to assume all the powers and privileges of a complete Collegiate organization under its own legislative charter, and as, in either case, it would do all its own work, so in this instance it would confer literary honors upon its own deserving students. The Conference, with a liberal and enlightened patriotism, greatly redounding to its credit, acknowledges, with the Board of Trustees of the Academy, its preference for the former mode, if the Government and Legislature of New Brunswick, responding favorably to its reasonable and patriotic suggestions shall render that mode practicable.

Thrice happy will it be for the educational future of New Brunswick if her statesmen shall be found prepared for the adoption of a system as comprehensive and just in its provisions, as in its public benefits it will prove great, lasting and manifold.

Only to reflect, as it seems to us, is to be convinced of the wisdom, propriety, and superior public advantage of the plan proposed.

The formation of a general Provincial University, standing in the same strictly impartial relation to all the Institutions of learning in the Province which may be doing full collegiate work, would furnish the elements of a satisfactory solution of the much disputed problem long discussed between the advocates of a Christian Collegiate Education carried out under the watch-care of Christian Churches, and the champions of a Secular Collegiate Education wholly under State control,—for under this system of general comprehension under one central supervising body, both denominational and non-denominational Colleges, alike honorably treated by the State, would find free scope for as healthful a development of their power for good as their respective natures would permit to them.

It is also manifest that this plan of general federation under a common University head, would, for various reasons, enlist in behalf of Collegiate Education the largest possible portion of the population of the Province. Various great religious interests would bring to the support of the Higher Education the fervor of a religious enthusiasm, never awakened by the frigid solicitations of the mere State. Important centres of population would be induced to erect and sustain respectable Colleges in their midst, which would create a local demand for advanced education not otherwise at all likely to be elicited. On this plan, therefore, beyond that of any other devisable, there would be secured to our common country the largest number of its most promising youth as candidates for thorough Collegiate training, the largest exercise of private munificence in support of Collegiate Education, and the largest staff of educated men to conduct its educational enterprises. Who can sufficiently estimate the value of such advantages as these?

Apart from these considerations altogether, the adoption of the plan proposed would, by the stimulating influence of a generous competition between the various affiliated Colleges, exert

a marvellously beneficial effect upon the whole progress of Collegiate Education. The different Colleges would be full of life and vigor, and eager in the race of literary and scientific improvement. Moreover, in attempting to describe the superior advantages connected with the just working of the proposed University scheme, this fact also must be considered,—that the literary degrees and honors conferred by such a University would be esteemed much more highly than those conferred by a solitary College upon its own Students.

Finally on this topic, we may add that a comprehensive, well harmonized plan like the one suggested above, would meet the necessities of the country in this respect for all time—the future as well as the present,—its elasticity would enable it to adapt itself to a country having millions of a population or only thousands—to one having scores of Colleges, or only two or three.

The plan seems to us such an admirable one,—so beautiful in its simplicity,—so comprehensive,—so far-reaching in its power of adaptation to meet the wishes of all who can be interested in the subject; and at the same time so entirely free from any one feature which can be reasonably regarded as objectionable by any party in the Province, that we are confident it only needs to be carefully examined and candidly considered to secure for it the hearty approval of all.

Moreover, we can think of no serious obstacle now existing to prevent, or even to render at all difficult, its immediate adoption. As it is proposed, it neither meddles with the vexed question upon what principle state aid may be best given to promote higher education in the country,—leaving the Government and Legislature entirely free to adopt whatever policy in respect to this may seem most expedient, from time to time; nor yet does it touch the real or imagined vested rights or endowments of any existing Institution. It will only be necessary to withdraw from the State-created College at Fredericton its recently conferred and anomalous title of "University of New Brunswick," and allow it to assume its more becoming former title of King's College, or to take any other *præ-nomen* which may be preferred; and to require it and the Institution at Sackville to hold their right of conferring Degrees in abeyance.

As true patriots, earnestly desiring the welfare of our native Province, we do ardently hope that our public men may, amidst the many subjects which are urgently demanding their attention in these stirring times in the world's history, be induced to give to the proposal the attention it deserves.

It should be distinctly understood that the friends of the Mount Allison Institution are influenced in their efforts to secure a rightly constituted University in New Brunswick by no selfish or sinister views whatever. They wish to obtain for themselves no special favor, they seek for their Institution no right or privilege which shall not be equally open to all their fellow countrymen. In this great and good work of education they have no interest as a Church separate from the well-being of the country. They have been induced by solemn convictions of duty to project an extension of their educational enterprise in connection with their existing Institution. They intend that