

of writing essays worthy of being read before even such a learned body as the A. M. S. and that the members would be greatly benefitted by hearing them. It is not too late in the season even yet to move in this matter. Let the executive consider it well and act promptly.

THE scheme for the federation of the Colleges has at last been made public. Although reports of meetings held in Kingston to discuss this question are to be found in our columns, we think it but right that the JOURNAL should not be silent when the interests of education in this Province are so much at stake. We purpose in this number to take a general view of the scheme and in our next one will probably refer to some of its particular proposals.

It is proposed, then, that the various universities in the province hold in abeyance their degree granting powers so long as federation last. This is certainly much to ask and yet we feel confident that, if the educational interests of the country demanded the surrender, if higher education would be advanced and made more general thereby, the authorities of the universities would gladly enter into federation. Would the proposed federation advance higher education? We believe not. We believe that in educational matters as in almost every line, friendly rivalry is good. But, it is said we will still have this friendly rivalry. The various colleges will still carry on the work of teaching and each will still strive to give, if possible, a higher and more thorough education than is given by any of her sisters. This may be true to a certain extent, but when we remember that the various colleges have above and beyond them as it were a single university, that this university not only prescribes the course of study requisite for a degree but also actually enters into

competition with the colleges composing the university in preparing students for that degree, we are forced to believe that in a very short time the usefulness of the colleges will be gone. Students desiring a degree will attend the university and not the colleges. Were the proposed university not a teaching body but only an examining and degree granting institution this objection to the scheme would be removed and the different colleges might continue to flourish.

In the next place the scheme requires that all the colleges be situated in Toronto. If they must all be in one city Toronto undoubtedly is that place. But, it may be naturally asked is it necessary that all the colleges have the same local habitation? We fail to see why it is necessary. On the contrary we think that this very proposal is a great objection to the scheme. We believe that higher education will become more general, that a greater number will avail themselves of a college training, if there be, as now, a number of colleges in different parts of the province, than would do so, if all the colleges, as it is proposed they should be, were situated in one place. The presence of a college in any locality is an incentive to young men to avail themselves of a university education. That this is so is proved by the history of every college in the province. Examine the list of graduates and students of any of those institutions and it will at once be seen what an overwhelming majority of those were residents of the country in the immediate neighborhood of the college. We do not mean that more of these would have received a university education had there been no university near them but we do affirm that a very large proportion of them would not, could not have done so. The fact of the college being near was the incentive which prompted them to go to college and the saving in expense rendered their going possible.