

in respect of its one College than the other denominational Colleges in the country. Presbyterians not of the Church of Scotland, and Congregationalists are the parties chiefly benefited by it. Their ministers are trained there in the Faculties of Arts at the expense of the country, while other denominations train their own ministers and besides provide a far larger amount of collegiate education for the country. Queen's College, for example, with nearly its entire burden upon the Church of Scotland, has of seventeen Professors only seven of that denomination, and of its students only about one fourth.

5. A National University, having affiliated to it a number of Colleges throughout the country, should be fair and impartial in the distribution of funds intrusted to it for the encouragement of collegiate education. But the University of Toronto employs the enormous revenues at its disposal for the exclusive benefit of the local College situated in Toronto. Instead of encouraging a wholesome rivalry in the various Colleges, one such Institution has been fed to surfeiting. Considering the obligations incurred by the University College, it is not proposed to deprive it of an adequate endowment. It will still, according to the plan of reform, have an appropriation of \$28,000, which is equivalent to an expenditure of between \$4,000 and \$8,000 for each graduate, we presume, at the present rate of attendance, and after this appropriation is made, it is proposed to distribute the balance of the revenue among four affiliated Colleges, which will allow to each the small sum of \$2,125.

If the securing of this small amount were the only object of the reform we might be disposed to picture the defendants as the most ridiculous of reformers. But looking to the bearing of their plan upon the interest which the country has in the Institution of a National University—the affiliation of all Colleges worthy of the name; the maintenance of a high standard of education; the enlightened government and beneficial competition of Collegiate Institutions; the diffusion in the various sections of the country of a taste for the more advanced branches of learning, and the provision of facilities for its gratification,—we cannot but regard the end in view as worthy of all the earnestness and zeal devoted to its attainment: and remembering that the University of Toronto and University College, and all the other Colleges

desirous of affiliation are agreed upon the wisdom of the measure, and, further, that the sentiment of the country is becoming more and more favourable as the real merits of the question are being separated from the mere hues and cries of opposing parties, we cannot but feel that the day of victory is near at hand.

The Principal of Queen's College, who is also, we believe, a principal in the proposed reform, thus referred to the question in his address at the close of last Session:—

During the last year an important advance has been made in the University question by the issuing of the Commissioners' report. This is not the place to discuss the financial aspects of the question. What we are concerned in is its academic bearing, and it cannot but be a matter of satisfaction to all, that the country is fully alive to the importance of a University system which shall tend to elevate and advance learning. Hitherto the public mind has been much bewildered with purely financial matters, and the question sunk into a matter of party politics. But the higher education of the country is not a matter of party politics. Learning should be kept sacred from the strifes of partizanship. Who would think of party if we were suddenly called to arise and defend our borders from foreign invasion? And so, learning is one of those subjects which ought to be exempt from the common lot of party warfare. And it is satisfactory to know that the desire for University reform is confined to no party.

The essential feature of the proposed reform is to establish one great national system of higher education instead of the fragmentary, disjointed, and mutually counteracting system which at present prevails. What the nation demands is a great national University Board, under which degrees in all Colleges will have an equivalent value; and the public funds will not be wasted on institutions for the efficiency of which the country has no proper guarantee. At present, degrees of Canada have no definite value. Every College has its own standard, and is under no public check whatever. So low has the estimate of a degree sunk, that in the present Grammar School Bill it is proposed that the degree should have no value as a certificate in qualifying a candidate to hold a Grammar School. But this is surely a great injustice to Colleges that have struggled amidst the greatest disadvantages to keep up the character of a degree. But this injustice is necessitated by the circumstance that there could not be in a legislative measure any invidious distinction drawn between the degrees of different Colleges. If there was a general University Board, there would be a guarantee that every graduate would attain a minimum standard of excellence. Again, the honours conferred by different Colleges have different values; and great injustice is thus done to graduates, whose pass degree is perhaps more valuable than the honour degree of another College. But when the two graduates apply for the same situation, the honour degree of the one man, though really less valuable, will natural-