

Public and High School work. Here is one in college matters. Let us help to solve it, because a proper solution of it concerns us all. Improvement in educational affairs is from above downwards. If the Colleges improve, the High Schools and Public Schools must also. New life and vigour in our universities must make itself felt in the remotest Public Schools of the Province. And so, for the sake of our profession, and with the high, pure, disinterested and patriotic motives which must always characterize our profession, let us aid in the settlement of this college question.

There are three ways in which we may look at it. (1) We may urge the Legislature to build up one large, strong college, of which every citizen may be proud. (2) We may urge the Legislature to do nothing and allow the colleges to take care of themselves. (3) We may ask the Legislature to aid all chartered institutions in accordance with certain carefully prepared regulations.

The first scheme might be popular with the friends of the particular college which the Government might elect to aid. But it would give rise to such a feeling of injustice amongst the friends of the other colleges as would be disastrous to the interests of higher education in this Province for many a day. These friends would not submit to it without a struggle. Besides, it is doubtful whether such a solution would satisfy the best friends of even the favoured college. The *profanum vulgus*—for unfortunately a University training does not always eradicate narrowness, nor produce unbiassed minds and liberal ideas—would give the air their caps, and shout their approbation; but the grave and thoughtful, the cultured and patriotic men would not, I am persuaded, be jubilant over a proposal which they could not but regard as inexpedient and shortsighted. If one college could accommodate, and if it were capable of training all the young men of Ontario who desire a liberal education, there might be some show of reason and justice in such a solution, but the authorities of no one college, so far as I know, make any such pretensions. On the contrary, it is admitted, on all hands, that one arts college is not enough for this Province.

In years gone by one college stood far ahead of the rest. Recently two or three of the others have drawn well to the front, so well that they now do more than half of the collegiate work of the Province, thus showing that it is utter nonsense to say that University College is the keystone of the Ontario system of education. The rivalry between them has, for a dozen years, been a generous one. Will it continue to be so? If, like noble athletes, each one scorns to take advantage of the others, it may continue; but if one takes what the rest may consider any unfair advantage, the "noble rage" may give place to an envious struggle that would be fatal to that liberality and culture which it is the function and glory of all colleges to impart. "All vantageless," each should strive to do its share of the work of superior education. If the Legislature should now give a grant of money to one college which it withheld from the others, there would result, not merely the feeling of injustice to which I have already referred, but, along