

an unexpected extent. Not long ago an article appeared in a London weekly paper, which has a large circulation among the masses, giving an account of the Prince's political and social opinions. It was generally believed then that the article was inspired by him, and the current allegations to that effect were never contradicted. If the paper spoke

correctly of him, his aim is to become a popular king of a democratic nation—one who will make it his study to improve the condition of the common people with whom he is not afraid to mingle, as he did the other day with the poor in Dublin. There is in this direction a fine field of usefulness before him if only he persists in cultivating it.—*Canada Citizen*.

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## CURRENT TOPICS AND EVENTS.

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### UNIVERSITY FEDERATION.

This subject during the past month has very prominently come to the front. Two able pamphlets arguing the subject *pro* and *con.*, by Dr. Dewart and Dr. Sutherland respectively; an anonymous pamphlet, not so able; Dr. Burwash's excellent articles in the *Guardian*; and the admirable Convocation address of President Nelles, indicate the depth of the interest the subject excites. The balance of advantage seems to us decidedly to preponderate in favour of confederation. We think that the friends of denominational universities will admit that if such a broad, catholic, unsectarian Provincial University had been in existence in 1841, it is not at all likely that Victoria University would ever have been established. And now that what public opinion generally deems to be an equitable and honourable plan for the federation of the denominational universities with the Provincial institution has been propounded, it should be rejected for only very grave considerations. It requires not much argument, we think, to show that a much stronger, better equipped and effective university can be created by such federation than by the maintenance of separate and rival institutions. Every branch of human knowledge has in recent years wonderfully expanded; new departments of science have been practically created;

and any institution at all worthy of the name of a university for the twentieth century, on whose threshold we now stand, with a curriculum embracing every branch of human knowledge, must be a very different institution from anything the country now possesses. Shall we be doing justice to the Methodist youth of this country, of the present and future generations, by standing aloof from this movement for the founding of a national university under pronounced Christian auspices which shall be worthy of the foremost province of this Dominion, and the peer of any university on this continent? The question arises, Can we maintain our hold upon young men of the best Methodist families if we stand aloof from this patriotic movement? Many them attend the Provincial University as it is, and many more will in the future. Are we willing as a Church to let these young men, who will be leaders of opinion in the future, drift beyond our influence in the most important period of their history. Dr. Williams, at an educational meeting at Halifax the other day, used these significant words:

"We were not having the influence upon the public mind as a Church that we should. The adherents of Methodism are not filling the places they should in our courts, our legislatures, our public positions of various kinds. The time was coming when Methodists should make their influence felt in high places which they were not reaching and in political circles. In the Senate of

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