

BRIEF REJOINDER BY DR. BURWASH.*

WE make a few brief notes on Mr. Allen's article :

1. The complaint of Mr. Allen that the Board of Regents have not furnished him with certain information, certainly, is not "a fact concerning federation." Probably if Victoria were in Toronto within convenient reach of a large number of the members of the Board, all the committees which he suggests would be practicable as standing committees. At present committees are appointed and called together at expense of time and money, when there is some directly feasible work to be done.

2. The attempt at disparagement of Dr. Burwash's estimate for independence may fairly be classed under Whately's fallacy of objections. He tosses aside Dr. Burwash's estimate for buildings because he is not a practical builder, forgetting that the man who is to live in the house is the best judge of the size and style of house which he requires, and that information quite sufficiently accurate for ordinary purposes as to what such a house will cost is not difficult to obtain. He compares the estimate of 1890 with that of 1886, forgetting that Victoria University receives one per cent. less for its investments to-day than it did four years ago ; forgetting, too, that the men who were junior professors four years ago are now, after winning high honours in Europe, entitled to the full rank and pay of professors ; and forgetting that four years has added largely to our embarrassing debt. If Mr. Allen's policy is to be carried into effect we must dismiss half our present staff, and fill their places with juniors.

3. As to comparison of average salary in Toronto University with that proposed by Dr. Burwash, Mr. Allen is again quite oblivious of a few fundamental facts. (1) The same departments of study must be

provided for two hundred students as are needed for four hundred. These departments are in Toronto (omitting the subordinate departments) fourteen in number. Eleven of these are in the hands of full professors ; three are temporarily assigned to lecturers, making fourteen men absolutely needed to cover the ground even for two hundred students. With four hundred students the classes must be divided, and it is in these subdivided classes that the junior men are employed in Toronto. (2) Of course, the employment of these men reduces the average salary over the whole staff ; but the fair estimate is by departments. Toronto maintains fourteen departments, at an average cost of \$3,314 for each department. Dr. Burwash proposes to condense to thirteen departments, at an expense in Toronto of \$2,500 for each department. These are average figures in each case. It is, of course, cheaper to provide for four hundred students in one college, than to maintain two colleges each with two hundred. In his criticism Mr. Allen seems to forget altogether the Theological department with its three professors. Dr. Burwash's estimate of sixteen professors evidently includes that, leaving thirteen professors in Arts.

4. The gist of the rest of this article seems to lie in three sentences : "Specialization for the B.A. degree should be lessened, and will be lessened." "The college and university should each confine itself to its own legitimate work." The hope of a first-class university for Canada is not "more substantial than 'the baseless fabric of a vision.'" The plain inference is Victoria must be herself content to remain one of these "preparatory" colleges. Is this the glorious outcome of all the outcry for "independence" and to maintain "the degree-conferring

* With the concurrence of Mr. Allen a proof of his article was sent to Dr. Burwash. After the following editorial was in type, the accompanying brief rejoinder was received from Dr. Burwash.—ED.