

each year as the advantages of free and fair competition between the students of the various institutions are becoming more generally recognized.

Our Nova Scotia notes for this month furnish a tolerably complete report of the proceedings of the Senate of the University at its recent annual Session. From these sources of information we gather that the University, if not meeting the anticipations of its more sanguine promoters, is nevertheless developing with reasonable rapidity, and has fair prospects of ultimate success. As the Senate is chiefly composed of representatives of the affiliated colleges, the indirect benefits accruing to the cause of higher education from the friction of mind on mind must be very considerable. Without at all entering upon the vexed questions of large against small, or State against Denominational Colleges, we think none can dispute the fact that in small, isolated institutions such as the College of Nova Scotia, there is an inevitable tendency towards narrowness of vision and monotony of procedure. By bringing together, in frank educational conference, the Faculties of the several Colleges of the Province, the University has supplied a force which will materially strengthen the power of resisting such tendency. So far as this point is concerned, the University Act may be considered to be in the direct interest of the Colleges, as tending to promote their efficiency. As to its effect in an external unification of higher training in the Province, we could pronounce more definitely than we can do now, had the Colleges been required to hold their degree-conferring powers in abeyance as a condition of affiliation, or had they voluntarily consented to such abnegation of chartered rights. Under existing circumstances, we can only await the issue of the experiment with great interest.

UNIVERSITY REFORM.

Before long, if not during the present session, an effort will be made by the management of the University of Toronto and of University College to induce the Legislature to make additions to the revenue of these institutions. As to the course which the Legislature ought to take in dealing with such an application it will be time enough to express an opinion when the grounds on which it is based are made public, but even at this stage of the agitation it is proper to say that no such application is likely to be very successful until the public are made thoroughly acquainted with the state of the University endowment.

It is one of the educational anomalies of the day that the proceedings of the University Senate are withheld almost entirely from the public view. There is not another trust of so great importance, either financially or educationally, in the Province, and, strange to say, about this most important one of all the public know literally nothing. Nor do the graduates themselves know much more. Some of them are members of Senate, and many of them are members of Convocation, but the Senate proceedings are secret and Convocation never meets for the transaction of business. We do not wish to be regarded as insinuating bad management of the trust, much less positive

wrong-doing; but at the same time we take the liberty of warning all parties interested that in order to make the University and College as popular as they ought to be the Senate meetings must be thrown open to the public.

There is another matter which comes up in this connection, and which is entitled to attention on quite other grounds. This is the expediency of making certain changes in the course of study in University College. The change most needed just now is to shorten that course by cutting off the first year altogether. This would make the College more efficient by enabling the professors and tutors to devote themselves more exclusively to advanced instead of elementary work. There is not, and never has been, enough of teaching done in that institution, and one great reason for this defect has been the want of time on the part of the teachers. The work of the first year in the College is purely elementary, and can be done not merely as well, but very much better, in the High Schools of the Province. Once—and that not many years ago—this assertion could not have been made, but during the past few years a great revolution has been wrought in the condition of the High Schools and the character of the work they do. The teaching of classics, mathematics, English, French and German—and these cover the whole ground of first year work in University College—can be more efficiently performed up to a certain point in a good High School than in any college; and we have no hesitation in affirming that that point is at least as high as the upper limit of the present High School programme. The "Upper School" work in High Schools coincides pretty closely with the first year course in the College, and the schools would be as much benefitted by having this work to do as the college would be benefitted by being relieved of it. Every High School master wants to keep his pupils as long as he can, and he certainly should be allowed to keep them through the whole course where his doing so is quite compatible with the interest at once of the pupils and the public.

THE SPECIAL GRANT TO COLLEGIATE INSTITUTES.

"Head Master's" criticism of the basis on which a special grant of \$750 is made to each Collegiate Institute will, we have reason to believe, meet with the approval of the great majority of High School masters. The condition which discriminates in favor of the Collegiate Institutes is, as "Head Master" affirms, a part of the old system; it is based upon wrong principles and is attended with unsatisfactory results. If the Latin test is to be retained, "Head Master" is probably right in recommending the reduction of the average number from sixty to forty, and the introduction of certain other conditions, especially that of insisting on a certain average attendance of "Upper School" pupils. Doubtless the evils of the present system have not escaped the attention of the Minister of Education; but whether he will feel inclined to meddle with what the Collegiate supporters may warrantably claim as "vested rights," is another question. It would, perhaps, be inexpedient to withdraw the special grant to the Institutes; but certainly something should be done for those excellent schools, several of which, as "Head