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THE WESTERN UNIVERSITY AND AFFILIATION.

The corporators of the Western University having succeeded in the face of a general disapprobation in founding a new degree-conferring college, have subsequently shown themselves not lacking in enterprise. Within the short space of three years, after having wrested from a somnolent Legislature a charter giving them extraordinary powers, they have issued their Prospectus and Calendar, celebrated amid much pomp their inauguration, and gathered together some thirteen students to be instructed by a staff apparently powerful and varied. A vigorous circulation of the contribution box at home and abroad is expected to supply the sinews of war, doubly necessary in a case where the future has, in more senses than one, been so heavily mortgaged.

As yet, however, a long way from becoming a University in something else than name, they have further advanced by taking steps to avail themselves of the privilege given them by their Act of Incorporation, in a clause (41 Vict., cap. 70, sec. 10) which is one of the most extraordinary features of that extraordinary Act. This section, which gives them the power of affiliating with the University of Toronto, was, as is well known, a partial and politic concession to public opinion on the part of its supporters, the true meaning of which is only now becoming thoroughly understood.

The clause in question runs as follows:

"The College with university powers hereby created *may, also on its own motion*, become affiliated in respect of any of its faculties or departments, other than divinity, with the said University of Toronto, upon compliance with its statutes in that behalf."

In other words, on conforming with the formalities of the University Statutes, the Western University can obtain affiliation with the University of Toronto, whose discretion to accede, refuse, or make terms is thus apparently annulled. It is manifest that affiliation with other and minor institutions is a subject in deciding upon which the University Senate ought (as it very properly has in the past) to exercise its most deliberate judgment. Affiliation with the Institute at Woodstock was granted only on terms, and after prolonged discussion and deliberation. It ought to be shown, apart from questions of general policy on every similar application, that the additional labor and inconvenience imposed on the University officers and examiners, and the expense (which, however small, is at present a serious question), will be fully justified by the results. Moreover, affiliation itself, in destroying competition, does away *ipso facto* with one of the strongest excuses for the establishment of new universities.

But notwithstanding all this, we find that the Western University can force, whenever it so wishes, an affiliation, which the University of Toronto, in the face of the Statute at any rate, has no option of refusing.

Apart from all these considerations, there is the general impression that the Provincial University is being used as a means towards further aggression on the part of the Western Univer-

sity. The Senate would undoubtedly carefully weigh this circumstance, were it worth its while to do so in a case where deliberation may be useless. Those who are interested in educational matters, and the public generally, will nevertheless do well not to lose sight of these facts and possibilities. It is true that the Legislature has enacted that the course of study and qualifications for obtaining degrees in the Western University shall be similar to those in force in the University of Toronto, thus vaguely endeavoring to clog the fatal tendency of its own Statute towards lowering our general standard of University education. But the same active spirits who, not animated solely by a desire to furnish the people of Ontario with a higher type of culture, and in the face of not a few difficulties, obtained an Act which gives them such unusual and unnecessary powers, are unlikely to be deterred, unless public opinion is pronounced, from applying to the same quarter for even greater privileges, and, it may be, for substantial assistance. While, therefore, we do not necessarily oppose affiliation in this case, and, in fact, advocate a liberal policy wherever it does not conflict with our undoubted rights, we would venture to enter an emphatic protest as well against this Statute as it now stands as against the peculiar policy of which it is the legislative expression. The Provincial University ought to stand in no subsidiary relation to a minor though aggressive institution, primarily created almost expressly for theological, and incidentally only for secular, instruction; and dangers from such sources can be most thoroughly appreciated, and, if necessary, overcome by our fairly facing them at the outset. The history of the University of Toronto is made up of successive concessions to denominational Colleges; the time has now comewhen we should abandon that policy, and assert our position and rights as the Provincial Institution.

THE most serious consequences likely to follow the late hazing at University College, are from the erroneous impressions made upon the public mind by the press of Ontario. Any accounts have been based in every instance upon the unfounded statements published in the *Globe*. To quote the *Kingston News*: "The people of this province feel a proud satisfaction in paying \$50,000 a year for the purpose of giving ingenious youths that more lofty and refined culture which enables them to get rid of whiskey in wholesale quantities." The *Globe* has scattered broadcast germs that may grow into living opposition to University College, and has given outlying colleges a handle against it that may be worked to its disadvantage. Why it has done this it would be difficult for most people to see, but the writer of the reports, by his own admission, knowingly published untruths for the purpose of eliciting the truth. Such a policy would be unworthy anyone, but when pursued by a public writer, who has in his power to poison the public mind with his inventions, it is condemnable in the extreme. A fairer course, if publicity had to be given the affair, would have been to have carefully weeded the statements of both parties, and to have published only such as could have been substantiated by reliable evidence, and even perhaps, for the sake of the College, to have given the benefit of any doubts to the seniors, who must be the blameworthy party in the eyes of the public. A course of this kind would never have necessitated the *Globe's* being "glad to learn that the affair at University College was not nearly so bad as at first represented;" that is, as represented by the *Globe*. There are two views of the question, the public one and that of university men; and it would, for very obvious reasons, be hard, even under ordinary