

tion, need not be further referred to in this connection, and I am not sufficiently acquainted with the history and resources of Trinity to judge how far it might be affected by the proposed arrangement; but, having a decided conviction that Confederation will result in the utter extinction of our Denominational University, and inflict lasting injury upon the cause of higher education, I desire to address a few words to the Methodists of the Dominion, and chiefly of Ontario, before they barter away for less than "a mess of pottage," the grand heritage bequeathed to them by the far-seeing and heroic men of the past.

There is the more need to do this at the present juncture, because a good deal of misapprehension exists in regard to the scheme itself, and also in regard to the action of the Board of Regents of Victoria College in reference thereto. It should be understood that this matter was not inaugurated by any recognized Court of the Church, nor has it been dealt with under any authority conferred by the General Conference. The Board of Regents have definite duties and powers, but assuredly giving countenance to a scheme for abolishing the University, whose interests they should guard, is not among the number. As appointees of the General Conference and of the *Alumni*, and as guardians of the University, theirs was a sacred trust, and it will require much special pleading to show that the trust has been fulfilled by an effort to commit the Church, in advance of General Conference action, to a scheme which involves on the part of Victoria College the present surrender of her

outside of Paris.] "Originality in the Provinces is destroyed by this unity." Then quoting the opinions of the Commissioners of 1870, as to the want of unity of degrees in France, notwithstanding the unity of examinations, he sums up as follows—"What we demand is not new; it is simply the return to the ancient system, to the traditions of the ancient Universities. We demand the destruction of the University of France, and the creation of separate Universities."

"The paltry faculties created by the first empire in no way replace the great and beautiful system of rival Universities, with separate autonomies—a system which all Europe borrowed from France, and which all countries but France have preserved. We must create in the Provinces five or six Universities, each independent of the other."—*Renan*.

The great mistake in France was this—she had but one University. There were many Schools—"eight of Law, five of Medicine, eight for Science, and six for Arts. But they were separate Schools; . . . they were not, with the single exception of Strasburg, united Faculties working together; they had no University organization. . . . It thought that intellect might be fostered by special schools acting as organs to one great nervous centre; but the organs have not fulfilled their functions, and the nervous centre itself has consequently dwindled away."—*Dr. Lyon Playfair*.