

Educational Weekly

VOL. IV.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 1886.

Number 81.

The Educational Weekly

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TERMS: Two Dollars per annum. Clubs of three, \$5.00. Clubs of five at \$1.60 each, or the five for \$8.00. Clubs of twenty at \$1.50 each, or the twenty for \$30.00.

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PUBLISHED BY

THE GRIP PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO.,
TORONTO, CANADA.

JAMES V. WRIGHT, *General Manager.*

TORONTO, AUGUST 5, 1886.

The question of University Federation seems as far from settlement as ever. Blasts and counterblasts are issued from various quarters representing various opinions, but in the meantime Victoria, Queen's, and Trinity Universities remain as they were; the only hopeful feature (from our point of view) lies in the position taken by some of Victoria's most prominent friends, who are vigorously contending for the principle of Federation. Only a few days ago a letter appeared in the *Toronto Globe* on this subject. It was a letter urging that a fund be collected to be given to Victoria University to induce it to come to Toronto. We might perhaps quarrel with the idea underlying this suggestion, that universities should be offered bonuses like a railway or a manufactory, but we believe that the suggestion

shows the drift of affairs, and the trend of public opinion. The question at issue is really not complex, but some have done their best to make it so by introducing numerous side issues. Those who favour federation point out the increased strength that comes from unity; the advantages that will accrue to young Canadians of different creeds and different opinions mingling with one another; the probability that federation will lead to a grant from the Government, which most certainly is not at present forthcoming; and the example set us by England and Germany, where the number of universities in proportion to the number of inhabitants is indeed small, and the warning afforded by the United States, where universities are multiplying, one might almost say daily. To this many will reply that this or that university will lose a large endowment if it comes to Toronto, and that Ontario has not too many Universities for her increasing needs. But a university should not exist for the sake of an endowment; the endowment should exist for the sake of the university, and what would be lost by the way of endowment would be amply repaid by the superior advantages to be gained by federation. Another objection must also, we think, fall to the ground when we consider England with her thirty millions and three universities, and Ontario with her two millions and five universities. However, whichever side one may take on the subject, it would be well if whatever were done were done quickly.—*Com.*

THIS, perhaps, is the best place in which to insert the following sentences from the *Montreal Witness* :—

For the first time in its history, the University of Toronto has this year thoroughly de-centralised its matriculation examination, sending the papers to each place where an examination was to be held by the Education Department for the certification of teachers. The result is the passing of a class of one hundred and seventy in the Faculty of Arts, a very much larger number than is recorded for

any previous year. The effect in this direction will be still more marked in the future, for the change this year was made so recently that the schools and candidates had not become familiar with it. The other universities of the Province have followed the example set by the University of Toronto, and have rather improved on it by combining their examining boards into one and sending out only one set of papers in each subject for all three universities. This arrangement had the double merit of being economical and of giving the public increased confidence in the examination, the entrance test for Queen's, Trinity and Victoria being thus absolutely identical. In the University of Toronto only ninety of the candidates wrote at headquarters, a surprisingly small proportion in view of the short notice and of the fact that only those writing in the University building can compete for scholarships. The disproportion thus early manifested will, no doubt, increase until a time comes when the scholarships must be either abolished or offered for general competition. Female candidates have held their own this year. Eighteen have passed in all the subjects and become undergraduates, and a much larger number have taken standing in one or more subjects. Of those who matriculated, a considerable number will attend lectures this year in University College, making, with those in the higher years, a total of probably not less than twenty-five, about double the attendance of any previous year. Now that the system of mixed classes has outlived all opposition, the increase in the number of female students will be more rapid. The suite of rooms set apart for their use in the College is admirably adapted for the purpose, and only a good residence is wanting. This will, no doubt, in time be provided by the aid of friends of the higher education of women. Meanwhile the pressure on the accommodation afforded by University College for students of both sexes is likely to be great. The attendance last session was over 400, this year it will probably fall little, if any, short of 500.