

successful. The reports of its convention show that the majority of the colleges are Congregational, Baptist and Methodist seminaries, and that very few, if any decidedly, Church of England colleges have anything to do with it. For such seminaries as there form the Alliance, a convention is doubtless helpful, but the missionary zeal of the Church of England, or the Protestant Episcopal Church, will not be furthered by the existence of a convention, nor will it die out for the want of it.

UNIVERSITY CONFEDERATION.

The recent memorandum upon this subject by the Minister of Education continues to excite so much discussion, that we make no apology for considering it at some length. The most essential feature of the scheme appears to be the radical change that is made in the relations ordinarily existing with us between a University and a College. To Canadian ears a University is a sort of degree-conferring and examining abstraction, whilst the same thing looked at from its more tangible side of a teaching faculty is called a College. Every one knows that the confusion between University College and the Toronto University is for most people absolutely hopeless, lurking even in high quarters where it might have been least expected. Even in England, where the federation of a number of colleges with one University has been an accomplished fact for centuries, University men are constantly questioned about Oxford or Cambridge "College," and on this continent where, as in Germany, the one College type of University is almost universal, it requires a strong mental effort to render the new scheme even intelligible. It must be premised then that under the proposed plan "University" and "College" become altogether distinct; the new Provincial University will have a large and increasing teaching faculty of its own, by which instruction will be given free of cost to all the associated Colleges alike, especially in the scientific and technical branches of study, whilst the Colleges will thus be enabled to concentrate their resources chiefly upon the literary portion of the Arts curriculum.

Clearly, there is much *prima facie* advantage in such a plan. The special characteristics of social and religious culture, which the College system in its entirety can alone consistently develop, are fully maintained, whilst the necessity of reduplicating the most expensive scientific apparatus, collections, buildings, etc., is avoided. By means, too, of the saving thus effected, opportunities can be afforded for post-graduate and other work upon a large scale, to which, for some time at least, none of the Universities of Ontario can otherwise hope to attain.

These advantages alike from an academic and a patriotic standpoint, have been heartily recognized both by the representatives of Trinity at the Conference, and by

the formal action of the Corporation. Perhaps, to none of the Ontario Universities would the scheme so readily commend itself at first sight as to Trinity, seeing that it is an attempt to reproduce upon Canadian soil a *fac simile* of those great seats of learning in England, with which Trinity and her professoriate have from the first been so intimately connected.

Whilst, however, there seems to be but one opinion amongst us with regard to the principle of confederation or association, if properly carried out, it cannot be denied that Trinity's entrance into the confederation will practically entail upon her very considerable sacrifices. The present buildings and site, with all their old associations, must be left; our hall and beautiful new chapel ruthlessly pulled down, and with all her old moorings thus cast adrift, we must seek a new home in the Queen's Park. There appear to be some philosophic souls so superior to all these considerations of sentiment that they can see little sacrifice in this, but it is also worthy of notice that these gentlemen have been the loudest in protesting against being themselves forced to do the same, by handing over the present University College buildings to the use of the new University. Moreover, by holding in abeyance our degree-conferring powers, we are making a present to the new University of our yearly-increasing graduating classes in the Faculties of Medicine, Law and Music. The fact cannot be gainsaid that confederation by Trinity will mean the loss of much which she now holds in her hand, and that the only set off on the other side consists in possible future advantages, which, with her present rate of progress, she may reasonably hope ere very long to obtain in great part for herself. From this point of view considerable uneasiness has been felt amongst our graduates and benefactors as to the nature of the reply which the Corporation would make to the Government proposals. It is satisfactory to find that the voice of the Corporation was unanimous and against leaving our present vantage-ground and striking out upon a new path, unless three essential points were guaranteed beyond all shadow of doubt.

(1) The preservation of our own special characteristics in regard to Christian teaching, by which such teaching in accordance with the principles of the Church forms an essential part of the Arts curriculum. We should, justly, be reproached with base disloyalty to God and the principles we have inherited from our great Founder, with an unjustifiable breach of faith to our hundreds of generous benefactors, as well as with causing grievous loss to the Church at large, were we for one instant to place this essential point in jeopardy. The principle involved was fully conceded in the memorandum, but the Corporation have only performed an obvious duty in insisting strenuously upon the various details necessary to the practical working out of this principle efficiently. It is somewhat amusing in this connection to note the unprac-