

To these I appeal ; and I appeal also to those distinguished graduates of universities in the Mother Land who have cast in their lot with the teachers of Ontario, and who can view with impartial eyes the University question in all its aspects ; and through this Association I appeal to that larger body still, the Public School teachers of the Province, who have no particular interest in the rise or fall of this or that university, to take a wide view of this College and University question, and to seek a settlement of it—not in the aggrandisement of one institution and the degradation of the rest, but in the best interests of the higher education of the Province—in the best interests of the people of Ontario. Individual men, and particular institutions are trifles after all ; they are here to-day and gone to-morrow, but principles are eternal, and it seems to me that we will be doing our duty best—not by discussing the excellencies and defects of this, that and the other university, but by seeking to discover the principles upon which the Legislature of this Province may aid or refuse to aid—not only existing colleges but all others that may hereafter be established.

The Executive Committee of this association to whom was entrusted the duty of preparing the programme of this meeting, chose the subject of this paper. You will find it entitled "University Consolidation and Legislative Aid to Colleges." I propose, in the first place, to discuss the question of Legislative Aid to Colleges, and after that I may have a few words to say on University Consolidation. This will be treating our subject "hindmost first," but such a method of procedure may help to clear away the mists surrounding University federation, especially if we are fortunate enough to agree upon the principles, upon which the colleges may fairly be aided with money from the Provincial treasury. Let me here say that I like the liberality implied in the phrase "aids to the colleges." The Executive Committee knowing that there were about 800 students in Arts in Ontario, and seeing that no *one* college could properly accommodate, much less educate, such a large body of young men, took the highest ground that cultured and patriotic gentlemen could take, and said :—"We desire to see all the colleges that the country really needs made more efficient by increased Legislative aid, and we desire to see them all parts of an organic whole, and the question we will submit to the Association is how can this be done?" Such was the opinion I formed of the Executive Committee, and such was the insight I got of the subject, on reading Mr. Doan's letter requesting me to introduce the discussion to-day. What could I say to such a request but *yes* ! The fact that a few members of the Association took such a wide—such a statesmanlike view of this important question was sufficient to assure me that the whole Association could not but take an equally comprehensive view, and reach a conclusion that would be applauded by all liberal minded and scholarly men in the Dominion. Besides, this college question has a special interest for us teachers. Generally speaking we spend all our time in solving problems connected with

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