

account their wealth and numbers, the Methodists of Ontario have been equalled by few in what they have done for higher education. In the last fourteen years two of the bodies now composing the Methodist Church have raised some \$300,000 for University work, and if a fair, practicable scheme were put before them they would quickly raise as much more.

The fact is—and the truth may as well be told—if the people have not responded more heartily, it is because the financial management of the College has not been such as to command their confidence. No comprehensive scheme of finance has ever been laid before the Church; serious annual deficits have occurred, and no vigorous or direct effort made to prevent them; and thus after one heavy debt had been paid by the Church, another still larger has been suffered to accumulate. For this state of things I blame no one individual, but the system. Everything has been done by a large Board where no one in particular is responsible. Resolutions have been passed from time to time, but unfortunately resolutions, however carefully framed, will neither pay debts nor stop deficits. "What is everybody's business is nobody's," and the management of Victoria illustrates the adage. The chief cause of the weakness is in this, that the Board have not taken the people into their confidence. They have never laid before the Church any definite policy on University matters, and there are few, even among our graduates, who know just what we propose to do, or how we propose to do it.\* The result of this vacillating policy has been that instead of inspiring enthusiasm and confidence, we have only succeeded in inspiring mistrust.

#### IV. AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY DEMANDED.

But although much evil has already resulted, I believe it is still possible to rectify the mistakes of the past. If even now the Board will announce a definite and aggressive policy, the Church will rally to their support. That there may be no misunderstanding, let me indicate what I mean by a "definite aggressive policy." Let the Board announce substantially as follows:—

\* A prominent Presbyterian minister, whose duty takes him all over this Province, lately said to the writer:—"I find everywhere I go that your people are quite at sea in regard to College matters. They don't seem to know what you really want, or what you intend to do."