

conviction that the real character of the proposed scheme of College Federation is not rightly understood by many of our people.

A BRIEF HISTORIC REVIEW.

It is well known that at an early period in the history of Upper Canada large grants of land were set apart for the support of University education. This endowment, like the Clergy Reserves, was claimed and seized by one denomination; and King's College was established as an exclusively Church of England institution. This unfair and exclusive policy compelled the Methodists and Presbyterians to establish and sustain Colleges for the education of the youth of their respective Churches. In this they displayed laudable enterprise and liberality. In 1849 Mr. Baldwin had a new University Act passed, which took away the special control from the Church of England, and placed the University on a broader basis, though it remained largely under the direction of the same parties. This Act contemplated the affiliation of other Colleges with the University; but nothing of this kind took place.

A new Act, passed in 1853, refers to the failure of this object as a reason for the new legislation. The avowed object of this new legislation was to extend the benefit and increase the influence of Colleges already established in the Province, by connecting them with the Provincial University. But the contemplated affiliation did not take place; because, although the Act of 1853 provided for the distribution of all "surplus" of University income for academical education, the surplus never was so applied. The managers of the University were quite able to use the whole income, and the outlying Colleges had only the privilege of affiliation, without any support.

At a later period, in 1860, a combined effort was made by the Church Colleges to induce the Legislature to recognize the work of the denominational Colleges and to give them some equitable share of the "surplus" income; but this effort failed, because of the strenuous opposition of the representatives of the University of Toronto. In the meantime, the claims of the Church Colleges were so far acknowledged, that the sum of \$20,000 a year was set apart for Higher Education, from which these Colleges continued to receive annual grants, till in the first session after Confederation these grants were discontinued, and the Colleges were thrown wholly on private benevolence. This prompted earnest appeals for an endowment fund, which in one form or another have been kept up from that time to the present. The