

tion. Though it can hardly be said to be, in its present shape, the question of Protection *versus* Free Trade, yet that is the underlying principle, and it is one of those great fundamental questions of Political Economy which should be thoroughly studied by the teacher, in common with every other intelligent and patriotic citizen. How many of our readers have been following the course of the Tariff Commission, as it has been going from place to place and from province to province, seeking to elicit the opinions of people of different classes and occupations on the subject? Those who have kept pace with this process will not envy the position of the Government which will presently have the task of attempting to harmonize all these conflicting opinions, which really represent, to a very great extent, as many conflicting personal interests, or what are supposed to be such, though it is quite possible, in many cases, mistakenly. No doubt a prolonged debate upon the subject will take place in Parliament during the approaching session. From the difficulty of the subject and the ability of many of those who will be likely to take part in this debate, the discussion can hardly fail to be highly educative as well as interesting, and so well worth careful reading by all young Canadians who wish to become clear thinkers, as well as to hold sound views.

#### THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS NEEDS.

FROM the statements of a deputation appointed by the Senate of the Provincial University, which waited upon the Government a few weeks since, it appears that the institution is just now in serious financial straits. Its income fell short of its expenditures last year by about eighteen thousand dollars. There is no reason to expect any better showing for

the year now passing, or for other years to come. The immediate request made on behalf of the University to the Government is for twenty thousand dollars to meet the deficiency for the current year, while it is plainly intimated that a claim will be made for an increase of endowment, in the shape of a land grant, to provide for the future. Twenty thousand a year represents an endowment of four hundred thousand, at five per cent.

Will the people's representatives in the Legislature, with the fear of the taxpayers of the Province before their eyes, vote such an appropriation for the support of a State University, to run practically as a competitor with the voluntary universities endowed by private benefactors, or dependent upon the free-will offerings of their friends and patrons, some of whom, no doubt, will be found in the Legislature itself? That is the question which will probably come up for final decision at the approaching session, for the Government can hardly afford to ignore the request of the Senate of the Provincial University, so influentially urged upon its attention. The Cabinet will, of course, be under the necessity of reaching some decision upon the prior question of its own policy. It must decide whether it will make the voting of the additional endowment asked for a matter of Government policy, or will leave its followers free to support or oppose any bill or resolution which may be brought forward, whether by a supporter or by an opponent of the Government. In the former case the proposed measure may, we suppose, be expected to pass. In the latter it will probably meet with strong support from members on both sides of the House, and with opposition no less keen and determined from others on both sides. The question of Political Economy involved is a large and much-vexed one. Viewed from the standpoint of what we may call, without any