

forms of knowledge cultivated, with the best facilities of the age. Such a university we need for the Province of Ontario, and assuredly it cannot be said that we have such a university now. There is not one of those now in existence, not even the Provincial University, that is not complaining sorely, and with good reason, of the want of adequate resources, and the case is rendered the more embarrassing from the fact that, at a distance of a few hours' travel, the well endowed universities of a foreign country present every attraction to draw away Canadian youth. Meantime the several universities which we have are so related to each other, and have inherited such a stubborn old quarrel between opposing systems, that, instead of working as allies, they are rather playing a game of reciprocal obstruction and enfeeblement. The evil has reached a point where it must be met, and the most feasible mode of meeting it is by some plan of consolidation, such as would secure for the country a stronger and worthier university than is possible under the present order of things. Due regard should be paid, and I trust will be paid, by our Legislature to all existing interests, and to the reasonable plea of those who contend for variety, for competition, and for religious instruction, in the work of education. Nor should we forget the immense debt of gratitude due to those religious bodies which provided in earlier days, and which still provide, a liberal education for the youth of the country. But if, with proper consideration for these things, and without doing violence to the great principles on which Victoria College was founded, we can aid in building up a proper national university, and can even help to supply some elements in which we have felt the University of Toronto to be deficient, and can moreover give the Methodist people the full advantages of this improved

constitution, then I maintain that no sectarian divisions, no undue regard for local interests, no sentimental attachment to an old order of things for which the occasion has largely passed away—none of these things should induce us to block the way to a great public good by opposing in the Legislature the improvement of a national institution which we profess to uphold, and which, in a new country like ours, will at the very best fall short of the true ideal.

Repeatedly during the past thirty years the authorities of Victoria University and of the Methodist Church have laboured to bring about some form of university federation, but thus far without success. The present scheme has valuable features not embraced in any former plan, and seems to open the way, so far at least as Victoria is concerned, to a satisfactory settlement of this long-continued and injurious controversy. If I thought the scheme would be in any degree unfavourable to the great ends for which Victoria University was founded, then I for one would have nothing to do with the measure. But, as accepted by our Board of Regents on the 9th of January last, I find all reasonable security both for intellectual advantages and religious influences, with even greatly enlarged facilities, for both the one and the other. The intellectual advantages are obvious enough, but as regards the religious advantages it must be evident to those who look carefully at the matter that it affords an opportunity for supplying to our national university that religious teaching and influence on which the Church colleges have always laid so much stress, and the want of which they have deplored in Toronto University. I do not think that the Senate or the Executive officers of the Provincial University can be justly blamed for the secular character of that institution. They have done