

as to what steps the church may yet deem it her duty to take in reference to her colleges, hinders many from manifesting their liberality in that direction. Therefore, while all the institutions are doing satisfactory work so far as means and opportunities will admit, yet a great advantage would undoubtedly be gained by consolidation, both financially and in efficiency.

In the maintenance of so many colleges, a little of the spirit of rivalry is often manifested among the friends of several the institutions. We do not regard this rivalry as altogether unjustifiable—for everyone naturally feels a strong attachment to his "Alma Mater"—but believe that a better state of things would be secured were the energies of the church directed to one object. It seems reasonable to suppose that consolidation would be instrumental in binding the several sections of the church more closely together; and then we would have institutions better equipped in every necessary department of Theological study.

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REPRESENTATIVES of fifteen great States have just met in Congress, at Berlin. The subject upon which they have been deliberating is one of the most important matters to which the attention of the world is directed, even in this day of great questions. It concerns the opening up to trade, to civilization, to christianity, of what is practically a new world. In the basin of the Congo river and along its tributaries, there live tribes whose population amounts in the aggregate to not less than 50,000,000 souls. When the gates to this great country are being flung open, and when past history would lead us to fear that bloody wars might be the result of the inevitable crowding and jostling that must take place between the rival nations who will be struggling for a foremost footing in this rich new land, it is gratifying to read that the Congress to which we have referred has arrived at such an agreement as this: "In the basin of the Congo and its tributaries, there shall be perfectly free trade among all nations. All powers exercising sovereign rights shall bind themselves to co-operate in an endeavor to suppress slavery, and promote the work of missions and all institutions which tend to the civilization of the natives."

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News from Egypt and the Soudan comes slowly. The British forces continue to advance, and the van is well on its way to Khartoum, the bone of contest. In the meantime General Gordon has it in his possession, and is confident that he can maintain possession in the face of great odds, until aid reaches him. The Home Government are to be pitied. They are doing a work the consummation of which is only to be guessed at. Lack of information leaves them in ignorance as to what will be the best solution of the great question. They are not destitute of motives, as their formal aim is to rescue the Egyptian garrisons and withdraw at once. But this is apparently only a humane end that awaits farther developments, good enough and true enough while the path is in darkness, but likely to be included in a greater end when all particulars have been obtained. The seeming riddle, too, of General Gordon's doings and sayings is, no doubt, another part of their embarrassment to the Government, for a people insane almost in their jealousy of what they call the "honor of the nation" rail in their ignorance at what seems to be contradictory and foolish. And even such a paper as the London *Times* encourages such ravings, and seeks to add to the