

has been held as an unquestionable truth that God raised up Methodism to do a special work, and that this constitutes the chief, if not the only, reason for her existence as a separate ecclesiastical organization. Moreover, experience has shown that Methodism, to do her work effectually, must do it in her own way. Alliances with others are only entanglements, cramping her energies and weakening her power. Her true position is the same as at the first, "the friend of all, the enemy of none." But if friendship is carried to the extreme of abandoning a sacred trust, and giving up to others a work we have been called to do, then we need not feel surprised if another take our crown. Our work as a people is "to spread Scriptural holiness throughout the land." But this embraces every agency by which any class can be reached, and among our agencies none are more important and far reaching than our Colleges and Universities. To abandon these is to lose one of the chief elements of our strength.* Let us not be deceived. As a distinct University, Victoria can do a grand work and wield a powerful influence; but as a Confederating College she will simply coalesce and disappear; and in less than ten years from now, Methodism, as a distinct factor in the work of higher education, will be unknown.

Behind all these arguments in favor of Confederation there is still another, apart from which the scheme would find but little support. Stated in plain terms, it is a question of money. If Victoria could be provided with good buildings and equipment, and fairly endowed, only a few theorists would be left to advocate Confederation. But it is said the necessary support cannot be obtained. The Methodist Church has been appealed to, but has not responded, and we must face the alternative of Confederation or death by starvation. This is the staple of much that is heard in private circles, but it is without solid foundation. I affirm that all the facts in this case go the other way. It must be remembered that, as a rule, Colleges and Universities are not endowed by the people, as a whole, but by the munificence of a few wealthy men. Taking into

* A distinguished Wesleyan minister from England once said to the writer:—"We have learned that no matter how strong we may be in any place or in any direction, we cannot afford to give up anything that is a source of *prestige* or influence in the community;" and then emphatically added: "I sincerely hope you will not give up your University."