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UNIVERSITY FEDERATION:

CONSIDERED IN ITS RELATION TO THE EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.

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I.

AN IMPORTANT PRACTICAL QUESTION.

SHOULD the Methodist people avail themselves of the advantages of the provision which the State has made in this Province for University education? or should they, by sustaining a separate denominational University, place themselves in a position of rivalry and opposition to the State University, as if they had no interest in it, and were not a part of the people for whose benefit it was established?

Recent events and existing circumstances invest this question with grave practical importance, for all Methodists who are interested in the educational progress of their Church and country. The Minister of Education for Ontario, assisted by representatives of all the Universities in the Province, has formulated and submitted a plan for a Federation of all existing University and Theological Colleges around one central State University. The Board of Regents of Victoria University, after protracted consideration, has approved of the scheme, on condition of certain amendments being granted. Trinity College, Toronto, has taken similar action. The question demands careful and candid consideration.

It cannot, therefore, be deemed untimely, or superfluous, that I should submit to the ministers and laymen of our Church a brief survey of the chief historic facts relating to this subject, and a calm statement of the important considerations suggested by the present state of things. I am impelled to adopt this course, mainly, by the