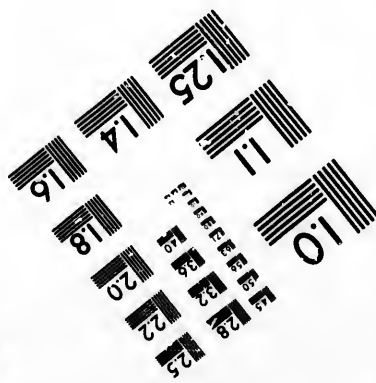
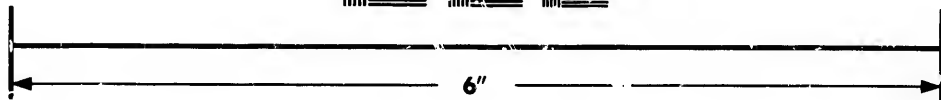
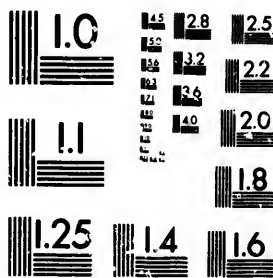


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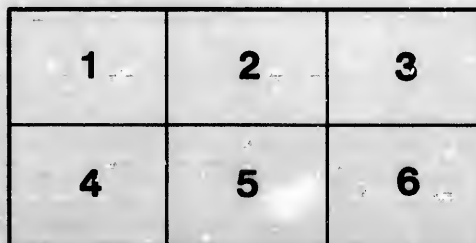
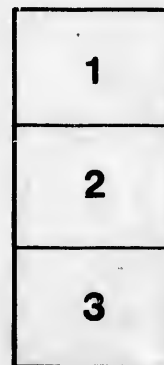
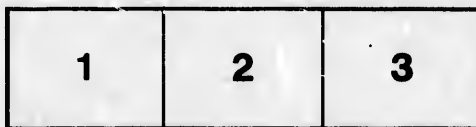
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SHOULD
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

JOIN THE PROPOSED

Federation of Colleges?

- I.—*The Claims of Cobourg as to Location.*
- II.—*Is Victoria College Retrograding under the present arrangement?*
- III.—*The Question of the Necessary Financial Aid.*
- IV.—*A Comparison of Advantages of the Proposed Locations.
—Toronto versus Cobourg.*
- V.—*What Effect would Federation have upon Victoria College
Itself?*
- VI.—*Conclusion.*

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The Proposed Federation of Colleges.

There has recently been much discussion in Ontario about University Federation ; and one scheme has been proposed and received some consideration, under which it is intended to remove the outlying Colléges to Toronto, thus forming one large institution for the higher education of the youth of the Province. Against this scheme the people of Kingston and Cobourg have energetically protested ; and from this action of theirs an impression seems to have gone abroad that they are governed only by blind selfishness in the matter ; that because Queen's College happens to be located in Kingston, and Victoria College in Cobourg, the inhabitants of these places cannot see any thing beyond their own particular interests, and are therefore bound to put every possible obstacle in the way of removal.

This is not a correct view of the case. So far as the people of Cobourg are concerned, they want to deal fairly and generously with Victoria College ; but at the same time they have rights and claims, founded on agreements, which they do not wish to forego unless good and sufficient reasons can be shown them for doing so. These reasons have not been advanced ; hence the objections taken.

I.—A STATEMENT OF COBOURG'S CLAIMS.

The following are the claims and agreements mentioned :—

Victoria College was first located in Cobourg, because when the members of the Methodist Church in Upper Canada thought that the time had come to establish an institution of their own for higher education, they appointed a committee to find out what were the most favorable terms

which could be obtained from the various towns that were seeking to have the projected Academy, each in its own neighborhood. This committee reported that Cobourg was a desirable place in which to have the school, and that the financial inducements were also greater than those offered by any other of the competing towns. Conference acted on the report, erected the necessary buildings, and accepted the subscriptions, on the condition, sometimes expressed, sometimes, doubtless, only implied that the academy was to remain permanently at Cobourg.

Educational affairs in the Province progressed rapidly. Upper Canada Academy soon became a College, with university powers. During these years the citizens of the town, irrespective of classes or creeds, gave it a liberal support, because, it being a local institution, they felt called upon to aid it.

In 1856-7 an agitation arose for the removal of the College. This resulted in a citizens' meeting being held, when the matter was discussed, and the municipal council was authorized to purchase a block of land and present it to the Board, on the conditions set forth in the accompanying copy of the deed:—

“This Indenture, made the twenty-sixth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, between the Town Council of the Town of Cobourg, of the one part, and the Rev. Enoch Wood, the Rev. Egerton Ryerson, the Rev. Anson Green, the Rev. G. R. Sanderson, the Rev. Richard Jones, the Rev. S. S. Nelles, the Rev. S. D. Rice, the Rev. John Ryerson, and John P. Roblin, the Trustees of Victoria College, of the other part.

“Whereas the lands and grounds at present appurtenant to the said Victoria College, at the Town of Cobourg aforesaid, are in the opinion of the Trustees insufficient for the use and requirements of the said College, and by reason thereof it was in contemplation by them to remove the Institution from its present site to another part of the said Province;—

“And whereas, to avoid the necessity for such removal, and to insure the continuation of the said Institution within the said Town, the said Town Council, at the request of the inhabitants of the said Town, have purchased the parcels of land hereinafter described, which adjoins the grounds so appurtenant to the said College, and have resolved to endow the said College therewith;

“And whereas, (after further reciting as is therein recited by an Act of the Parliament of said Province;)

“And whereas, the Trustees have resolved to accept the said endowment, with the understanding and assurance that efforts be made by them as soon as possible to improve and enlarge the present buildings for the accommodation of a larger number of students than can now be received within its walls, and have also resolved that they regard the soliciting and collecting of public subscriptions, and the expenditure of large sums of money for the erection of such additional accommodation, a sufficient guarantee of their intentions to continue the establishment and operation of the said College at the Town of Cobourg aforesaid;

“Now this Indenture witnesseth, that in consideration of the premises, and the sum of one shilling, the Town Council have given.....and

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conveyed to the Trustees and their successors, all those parcels or tracts of land, (here comes in the surveyor's description of the land) to have and to hold, upon trust, for the benefit and general purposes of Victoria College at Cobourg.

"Signed, sealed and delivered by the Town Council,

In presence of

DAVID BRODIE,

W. WELLER,
Mayor.

By the Trustees in presence of

JOHN BEATTY, JR.

LENOCH WOOD,
Chairman."

The buildings mentioned in the deed were not erected; perhaps because afterwards the government grants to denominational colleges were withdrawn, and these institutions were left entirely to their own resources. The land, however, was taken possession of on the conditions set forth in the deed.

In 1874, the removal question again came to the front; and this time the proposition was to go to Hamilton. But the people of that city did not respond to the advances made quite so liberally as had been expected. On the other hand, the citizens of Cobourg and vicinity, instead of insisting on their rights under the deed just quoted, or taking any measures intended to hamper the action of the College authorities, agreed to raise the money required to erect the buildings necessary to furnish the needed accommodation. This was done, however, on the distinct understanding, again had, that the College should remain in Cobourg permanently.

The Board gladly accepted the offer. The consequence was that some private citizens of Cobourg and its neighborhood, in order that the spirit of wandering, which was injuriously affecting both the College and the Town, might be stilled forever, raised the greater part of the money (about \$13,000) required to build Faraday Hall, on the very site which a few years before had been given to the Board, on the express condition that there should be no more talk of removal.

The following quotations show the understanding on which the aid was given and accepted. The heading of the subscription list reads thus:—

"We, the undersigned, agree to pay to the Board of Victoria College at Cobourg the sums set opposite our respective names, in trust for the purchase of land; and the erection of a building or buildings, or the repairing and enlargement of the buildings at present occupied by the said College,—either one or all of these said objects, as to the said Board may seem fit. But in every case the said subscription shall be given for the use of Victoria College in the Town of Cobourg, and there only; and we make these subscriptions in good faith that Victoria College shall permanently remain in Cobourg."

In the charter, which was being amended at that time, the name was changed from "Victoria College," to "Victoria College at Cobourg," in harmony with the terms of the subscription, and with the entire sanction of the authorities. On the day on which the corner stone of Faraday Hall was laid, the President, addressing a distinguished company of townspeople and strangers, exclaimed, "This is the sheet anchor that binds Victoria College to Cobourg."

These subscriptions were accepted in the spirit in which they were offered, as is clearly shown by the following extract from a letter written by the financial Agent of the College, dated March 12th, 1884, and addressed to Mr. Mulholland, M. P. P.:—

"The Board accepted the subscription, with the condition, and endorsed "the pledge as to the settlement of the question of removal."

These facts show that, on three separate occasions referred to, contracts were entered into by the College Board and the citizens of Cobourg which are legally and morally binding on the College authorities to maintain Victoria University in the town of Cobourg and nowhere else. It cannot, therefore, be said that the citizens are acting only on selfish grounds when they simply ask for their rights, and remind the college authorities of the existence and the conditions of these agreements.

II.—IS VICTORIA UNIVERSITY REALLY GOING DOWN?

But, irrespective of this consideration of contract, or implied contract, with the Town of Cobourg, there are other questions which the friends of Victoria should consider well before demanding or consenting to the proposed change.

The argument which has mainly given the origin and the weight to the proposal to federate is the *Financial* one. Because the College has not succeeded in becoming positively wealthy, the announcement is made that it cannot survive if it remain in Cobourg. That statement is not a very convincing one. A review of the period since the withdrawal of the gov-

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ernment grant shows that the institution has made and is making great and satisfactory progress. The building of Faraday Hall, and the better accommodation and equipment of the Science Department, has made that department famous throughout the land. Several well-furnished and beautiful halls have been fitted up in the old building, giving an impetus to the researches and operations of the students in the various departments, which was never before felt. The number of students has greatly increased. Three Professors have been added to the teaching staff; and a fair increase has been made in the salaries. The Department of Theology has been established; and a large number of young men, connected therewith, are being fitted for the ministry of the Church, while enjoying the advantages of a liberal education in other directions. Two chairs have been endowed in as many years by warm friends of the institution; another is declared to be promised to be endowed; the Jackson bequest has provided for the chair of Theology; while the general endowment, in all amounting to about \$200,000, combined with these gifts for chairs, has been so greatly extended that the receipts have increased from two or three thousand dollars, before the withdrawal of the government grant, and irrespective of it, to twenty thousand at the present time.

We say that all this advancement proves that Victoria is going forward, and *not* going down. And if such progress was made with the smaller constituency of a single branch of the church, surely it is fair to expect, with the larger constituency of over three-fourths of a million of people, which the Union of the Methodist Churches has given it, that its patronage and advancement must continue and increase.

And yet, notwithstanding this advancement, and notwithstanding these good hopes of the future, after forty years as an independent university, in which its successful operations have been a theme of honest glorying by its promoters, and in which it has bestowed a prominence and a material advantage upon its fostering church, as a University Church, all at once the cry is heard that Victoria College is "going down," and that it cannot continue to exist unless it be moved from Cobourg, unless it yield up its University status, and unless it enter into a federation which must have the inevitable result of reducing it to a Theological institution, with or without a certain number of classes in the simpler branches of the arts! What do Victoria's graduates of former years, holding their hard-earned diplomas, think of a proposition like this?

We hold that the so-called crisis in Victoria's affairs is only a manufactured one. We hold that the Methodist Church,—especially the enlarged Methodist Church, is as able to support its own Denominational University as it ever was. The advancement of the past ten or twelve years proves this. It is this constantly recurring agitation to remove, and this repeated alarming announcement that the College is going down, which is damaging its financial interests. Friends of the institution are assured that they *cannot support it* unless it is moved somewhere; and in time many of them, accepting other people's word for it, have come to take the supposed fact for granted. And the uncertainty as to the location, produced by this agitation to remove, necessarily discourages many from putting their money into what is industriously given the reputation of a fitting institution. But let it once be determined, *by a competent authority*, that Victoria College is *not* going to remove; that it shall remain where the wisdom of its founders placed it; and that it shall be sufficiently improved in its accommodation and equipment; and there is not a doubt that the loyalty and the liberality of the great Methodist Church would come to its relief, and that it would continue its higher university work, reflecting honor upon its denomination, and conferring lasting advantage upon the youth who should throng its halls. The settlement of the question will secure the building up; it is the unrest and the agitation which destroy.

III.—THE MONEY QUESTION.

That more money is required may be both asserted and admitted. But much less is required, for accommodation and equipment, in Cobourg, than would be required in Toronto.—yea, much less than in the latter place for accommodation alone. One hundred thousand dollars would,

1st,—Provide a suitable and handsome new building upon the present campus, facing the railway; and this, with Faraday Hall, would present an attractive appearance, besides providing the necessary additional room. It would,

2ndly, furnish \$20,000 for the beautifying and better equipment of the

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old building ; and it would,

3rdly, provide \$30,000 to \$35,000 for the improvement and complete furnishing with apparatus, etc., of Faraday Hall. Victoria would then have sufficient accommodation, in buildings and land, and sufficient equipment of all its departments, for the successful carrying on of its operations as an independent University, and to enable it to hold its place among the leading institutions of the Dominion. The single principal building in Toronto alone would cost more than this money, without any reference to the purchase of expensive land, or to the erection of other buildings for residence or other purposes under the proposed scheme. Is the Methodist Church, with its numerous other important enterprises on hand, prepared to risk thousands of dollars on the mere sentimental proposition to remove its College ?

After the provision of the necessary accommodation, the question of support would be almost equal in both locations. And in the case of Federation, that support would be rendered more doubtful on account of the estrangement of denominational sympathy and the supposed removal of individual liability by reason of the State assistance implied in the scheme. And, moreover, if the College is to succeed in its federated relationship, it must succeed by virtue of a material increase of students ; and this, to enable it at all to compete with University College, close at hand, would require a proportional increase in the number of teachers,—to say nothing of any increase of salaries,—and thus involve a greater outlay.

There would be this exception, also, against the Toronto location, that the tendency would be to argue that the people of that city had left no stone unturned to add this institution to the numerous ones it already possessed, and to make it a Toronto establishment ; and that, consequently, *they* might support it. The equipment of the College in its old and well-known location, however, with the understanding that it was the permanently established College of the Methodist Church, would not only throw its interests upon the sympathies of the denomination, but would remove the unseemly and unspirited phenomenon of wealthy men announcing that they will give liberally to their own denominational institution, provided it be located in their city, but nothing otherwise. For we are satisfied that if this agitation for removal were itself removed, and the question settled, these gentlemen would exhibit the same spirit as do the supporters of Queen's and Trinity, and loyally come forward to the help of their Col-

lege. And in that case they would have an institution worth supporting, which would continue to their church its university rank; and *not* a combined theological seminary and collegiate school, as we will try to show Victoria will become in Toronto, under the scheme.

IV.—THE RELATIVE ADVANTAGES OF PROPOSED LOCATIONS.—TORONTO *versus* COBOURG.

As to advantages of location, it may fairly be held that Cobourg is a better place for such a College as Victoria than Toronto. We leave the point of probable relative attendance for discussion farther on, when we will try to show that her students, having been forced to resort to Toronto in any case, and the university character and the control of higher education of their College having been yielded up, will naturally and necessarily select that institution of the group which can offer them the best facilities, even in the lower branches which the confederated schools would teach, and the most pretentious and advantageous connection. Letting this point lie in abeyance for the present, and supposing the friends of our College everywhere to be loyal in its support, we hold that Cobourg is a much more desirable place for the residence of youth, in pursuing their student work,—especially of youth who may not resist the temptations or afford the expense of a large city,—than Toronto. It is quite as eligibly situated, and as easily reached. It is a notably healthy town,—not subject to the effects of the impure water and bad drainage for which Toronto has become notorious. The expense of attending an institution here would be found, and has been found, to be very much less than in Toronto. The college location here, outside of Toronto, provides against the frequently-proved evils of centralization, and, with other such institutions offers the advantages of higher education to young men who cannot afford or do not wish to resort to a city, and who would be *shut out* from these advantages by the removal.

Very many of the largest and best Universities on this continent are located, and wisely so, not in the cities, but in the smaller towns.

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But a greater consideration than any of these is the moral one. The very friends of Victoria who are now most argumentative in favor of removal to Toronto have so often and so effectually urged this moral consideration, that it is hardly necessary to touch it. Men are prone to evil everywhere; and even in a town where comparatively few temptations are offered there is no guarantee against the student going astray. But how much *greater* his danger if placed in the giddy whirl of a city, with drinking and gambling resorts in all directions, with houses of even worse description at hand on almost every street to lure him from the path of virtue, and with a choice of two or three theatres every night. There is quite enough of life and attraction—or distraction—in a place like Cobourg for all the purposes of a well-furnished student. His business should be to prepare himself, by education, for the duties of life; *not* to seek for excitement or be thrown into the way of temptation and sin. It may be argued that such consequences do not necessarily follow. But while many, upheld by sterling principle, might escape, many others, not so fortified, would be lured to their destruction. And whose son shall it be? Sorrow has been brought into many a home by the "favorite boy" being sent to a city college, and many a Methodist parent, irrespective of the question of expense, will hesitate before surrounding his son with influences which have so often been skilfully decried by those who now desire to remove!

V.—HOW WOULD FEDERATION OPERATE UPON VICTORIA ITSELF?

The next question for consideration is the effect which the proposed Federation will have upon Victoria College itself. The leading features of the scheme may be briefly stated thus:—

The founding of a Provincial University, with a University Professoriate, teaching all the higher branches, including pure mathematics, astronomy, all the scientific subjects, Italian, Spanish, logic and metaphysics, political economy, constitutional law, jurisprudence, engineering, etc., and to group about this University all of the Federating Colleges, the students of which

shall have a common right to the University course, but shall pursue what may be termed the lower and less expensive branches, including the classics, modern languages, English literature, etc., as well as any theology they may wish to study, in their own Colleges. Victoria and the other institutions would thus become collegiate schools, teaching the lower branches of the curriculum, and theology; the students, while nominally connected with their respective schools, would repair to the University classes for the higher branches; while all, in common, would take their degrees, not from their own colleges, but from the University of the Province.

According to the present position, it is absolutely certain that Queen's University, Kingston, will not enter this Federation; it is more than doubtful if Trinity become a party to it. But the denominational schools now in Toronto, and whose students *now* pursue the arts in Toronto University,—McMaster Hall, (Baptist,) Knox, (Presbyterian,) Wyckliffe, (Episcopalian,) and St. Michael's, (Roman Catholic,) are all expected to enter. The question for the friends of Victoria to decide is, whether it will be to her advantage, the other two outlying Universities, or either of them, remaining out, to enter this Federation with these theological schools, even though the latter assume the teaching of the lower branches of the arts, and University College appear, on the face of the arrangement, to take the same rank.

We hold that the effect would be, in a few years, still further to degrade Victoria to the rank of a theological school, deserted by students pursuing only the arts; who, even before entering the higher Professoriate Department, would be attracted by greater inducements offered by the College supported by the Province, and elevated in rank and importance, and in the subjects which it would be empowered to teach, by a discriminating Senate.

First of all, in entering this Federation, Victoria yields up its University powers.

We regard with aversion the degradation of this University, which conferred the first degree in this country free from any sectarian test, into an institution which, irrespective of its theological department, will be but one remove in advance of our high schools. A careful study of the Programme of this Federation shows plainly the relative position of University College and the colleges and schools which enter into the arrangement. The

institution which is the best equipped, has the most chairs and professors, is the most amply supported, and can offer the best inducements, will attract the great body of the congregated students. The scheme, briefly stated, merely means the maintenance of University College as the Provincial College, and a sort of *quasi* affiliation of all the other colleges with it. The very circumstances will cause them to be almost regarded as its guests,—having repaired to its campus. That college is to be supported by the Province; subjects of study are to be transferred from it to the Provincial University, or *from the Provincial University to it*, at the option of the governing bodies of these two institutions, without the slightest reference to the other colleges. Indeed, it is expressly provided that University College and the faculty of the University Professoriate shall be *complementary the one to the other*; and that the work of these two institutions shall be carried on in the same buildings as the present University of Toronto. The whole scheme links them together, and all but ignores the other members of the Federation. And the fact of the Province being at the back of University College will give it both a status and a support for which the other colleges will have to look to private subscription; and this support, and this attraction, will most assuredly operate, whether intentionally on its part or not, in the drawing of students from the other colleges to itself. For those colleges will not be able to compete in the holding out of such inducements.

Furthermore, the very machinery to be brought into operation for the addition of chairs in University College shows the tendency in this same direction. The chairs are to be added at the option of its governing body. As first arranged, the various colleges are to send four of their own representatives, each, to the Senate, for six years,—graduates of the new University to send twelve; and after the lapse of that period, all graduates of all the colleges are to send such representatives as one body. In that case, unless an impossible coalition were formed between the other institutions, the Senate would simply be filled, as to its majority, by the graduates who had been students of University College,—which would greatly outnumber any of the others. It is fair to say, however, that Victoria and Trinity ask that this arrangement be modified, that the separate representation continue during the Federation, and that chairs be allotted to University College by a three-fourths majority. But, in any case, the fact *must* exist from the start that the influence of University College must be paramount in the Senate. And by the action of its friends in the Senate, in the addition of new chairs and other attractions, that College will, from the outset

and forever afterwards, be in a position so to equip itself, and that too, all and always at the expense of the Province, that none of the other colleges, which will have foolishly put themselves into its shadow, will be able to compete with it.

Then will begin the going over of Victoria's students to the more wealthy and more attractive institution. It will be the old story of the competition of private liberality with the resources of a wealthy Province, proud of its institution, and bound to keep it in as good a state of efficiency as an interested Senate will permit. All of the students will be upon one common campus; *that* college will offer much better inducements than any of the others, and over they will go!

And why shouldn't they?

Their own colleges will have given up their university powers and their higher classes; *they will have gone to Toronto in any case*, overcoming the frequently urged financial and moral considerations; and they will, at best, be students at their own denominational institutions but for about one-half of the course. What then will there be to prevent such of them as don't want any theology from doing the best they can for themselves in *the choice* of an institution in which they are only, after all, being trained for a couple of years, for one common Provincial University? Indeed, the very fact of this grouping of colleges, and the community of degrees, will *suggest* the impression that it does not matter *which* they attend, so long as they get through the hands of the Provincial Professoriate all right!

We say that this state of things must necessarily result in Victoria speedily and finally losing its students in arts, they being attracted elsewhere even for the two years' initial course, and settling down as a theological institution. This will be its leading feature from the start, in any case. The very fact and character of its patronage will stamp it with this feature. It will be known as one of the *denominational* colleges of the Federation, as distinguished from the provincial college, and that characteristic will be as *distinct* then as it is now, at a safe distance. Its students are to have the name of their college inserted in the diplomas granted by the Provincial University, as though there were some latent fear that they might be hereafter mistaken for members of the University College. Moreover, if neither Queen's nor Trinity enters this Federation, the result will be that Victoria will be *the only one of the outlying colleges to capitulate*, and it will rank with the present theologi-

cal schools, Knox, McMaster, Wycliffe and St. Michael's, and be classed with *them* as one of the denominational institutions, which sought the protection and patronage of Toronto University, (under another name,) and gave up its charter and its powers because some of its friends yielded to the pressure of the cry that if they "moved to Toronto" they would more easily get the money! The old competition and the old difference between a denominational college and a provincial one will be established and maintained; its students, even with the provincial degree, will continue to be esteemed as the productions of a denominational institution; it will have lost its graduation fees; and it will not be able to induce independent young men, who may *not* want theology, and who will see that it, itself, *has given up nearly everything but theology*, to remain identified with its fortunes when they have such superior inducements offered close at hand. The result will be that what little arts it may teach at first—(only two years of each man's course, at best)—will be given up, and our honored old Vic., which has stood the storm, lo, these many years, and has gained a name and exercised a power in the cause of higher education, will settle down as a Theological College, pure and simple. Because we honestly believe this will be the result, we are not prepared to give up the old regime. And, indeed, why shouldn't it be the result? *When it abandons the teaching of two-thirds or three-fourths of its arts curriculum, and the church abandons its traditional policy of the oversight of the higher interests of education, what would be its object in hanging on to the little balance?*

VI.—CONCLUSION.

And with the degradation of the College will come, in a sense, the degradation of the Church. For we assert that one of the great causes of the prominence and the importance of the Methodist Church in this country was the fact of its devotion to the cause of the higher education of its youth. And now it is proposed to abandon that position, and to accept an inferior work. And not only to accept an inferior work, but to accept it under an arrangement in which, in a large city, it will be impossible for the institution to exercise that spiritual oversight of its students which has

always been its safeguard and its boast. The whole status of a University which the fathers founded in faith, which the Church has nourished, and will more effectually nourish when this disturbing agitation is ended, and which capable and devoted professors have long striven to build up, is to be risked on the success of a single chance, against overwhelming odds, in University Park. And every one of its four hundred graduates in arts, to say nothing of the 1,300 in the other departments, is to find himself an alumnus of a defunct institution, obliged to attend the funeral of his own *alma mater*, and, by a sort of certificate, to accept in lieu thereof the coldly legal protection of a foster parent!

With the risk incurred, with the absence of necessity, with the degradation in status, with the certain and manifold dangers and increased liabilities placed in the way of its students, and with a sure and certain prospect of a *grand finale* as a theological school,—will the graduates and friends of our beloved Victoria, and the Ministers and members of the Methodist Church, voluntarily commit themselves and their educational interests to the untried scheme now proposed? Or will they, wisely and loyally, and at much less risk and expense, decide to enlarge and equip their institution as a Church and Provincial University on the time-honored site on which the fathers placed it, and on which it has so often proved itself, and so often been skilfully described, as an educational power in the land?



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