

King's Income by 5/32

About twenty years ago, I think, and just a little before his death, President Harper of Chicago said: "What we need is not a smaller number of colleges, but a greater number. And I predict that in the years to come the number of small colleges will be infinitely multiplied. There will be a closer relationship of colleges to universities."

Very painfully, and at a prodigious cost of money, the United States in part has groped its way towards a justification and fulfillment of his prediction. In several parts of Canada there was already in existence a collegiate system within the university such as he desired, and the process had come about much less painfully and with an actual saving of expenditure. And the result has been fruitful beyond measurement either in money or human effort and pain. The student in a group of colleges has the experience of meeting several professors in the same subject, where otherwise he could have but one. And for the Professors themselves life is enriched. Even at the best the fate of the Canadian scholar is a limited companionship, but at its worst his loneliness reminds one of Copernicus, complaining, in his crabbed 16th century Latin, of the contrast between his secluded existence in the fogs of the Vistula and the company of astronomers who once had gathered by the sunny Nile.

Now, if I may speak very personally, I count it one of the most fortunate parts of my inheritance here that Dalhousie and King's College had joined forces before I came. I shall leave it to King's to speak of the benefits on its side, but I wish to say that I appreciate more and more, daily, what good the affiliation has done to Dalhousie. Besides the benefits I have glanced at for both students and professors, it's a great enrichment to intertwine two such noble traditions as gather about our names. I feel sure also that the lesson is not lost on other lonely Universities. They say that only dying men utter credible predictions, and perhaps I am not so near my end as President Harper proved to be when he made his prophecy. Still I hazard this prophecy, that in the life-time of many of you here there will be grouped in Halifax, in one University, not two colleges but four or five. And, Mr. President, it will be the honour of King's and Dalhousie that we have, in the happiness of our union, shown the way.

Halifax, N. S.  
May 5, 1932.