

think proper to avail himself of its advantages.

The money was called *Castine*—a term which we are not prepared to explain at the present moment. One thing, however, is certain: it was not provincial money—nor had the province the remotest claim to it—as one of our contemporaries somewhat erroneously supposes. The application was successful, and the appropriation was made. Considerable progress had been effected when it was discovered that the funds would be insufficient. At this juncture the House of Assembly consented to a loan of £5000, to be repaid when asked for. This sum has ever since been a lien upon the building—though neither principal nor interest has been ever demanded. Thus far, however, and no farther, may the institution be considered provincial property. It is scarcely worth while following it through the various phases it has assumed in its chequered career. Our business is with its present and possible future. The buildings are handsome and substantial, and the revenue at present, is, we understand, £900 per annum. Surely it is matter of regret that such resources should remain idle, when they might have been employed to good purpose. The proposal to resuscitate “Ballhousie” in the form of a Provincial University is once more before the public. The part proposed to be taken by the Church of Scotland, may, we think, be explained in a very few words. They are willing—perhaps we might use a rather stronger term—to take advantage of this present *caput mortuum* of a College, and do their part in giving it life and usefulness by endeavoring to endow one chair, and make common cause with any body who may think fit to join them and take advantage of an institution which has funds enough of its own to endow three chairs respectably, as provincial Professors are generally paid. We understand that our Presbyterian brethren are willing to endow two, by transferring, we suppose, both the men and funds at present in Truro to form a portion of this Collegiate experiment. So far, all this is very plain and simple, and yet there seems to lurk some suspicion that the Presbyterians in this matter are working a little in the dark, and endeavouring to steal a march upon their brethren of other denominations, by arranging the whole thing privately for their own especial

benefit. This is a great mistake, and would, on their part, be a proceeding as foolish as it would be wrong. Unless we misunderstand the spirit and intentions of those of our people who have moved in this matter, they will only enter upon it on the condition that they have the hearty support of the representatives of *both* of the great parties into which the Province is perhaps unfortunately divided. We are warranted—we are fully convinced in saying—that were the Conservative party in power to-morrow, and expressed their willingness to hand over the College and its funds for the behoof of their plan, they would decline the offer unless it should be endorsed from the other side, and *vice versa*. And it would be the merest folly to entertain the idea on any other terms, for what would be built up to-day by one might be pulled down to-morrow by another. Our brethren may therefore make themselves easy on this point. Nothing will be done in a corner. We understand the proposed constitution of the College will be embodied in the form of a bill, which will be made as broad and fair as possible to all parties. It will be before the House and the country for consideration and deliberation. Should it become law, with the sanction and approval of a majority on *both* sides of the House of Assembly, we believe that the Kirk of Scotland will accept and act upon it gladly; Should it unhappily assume a party complexion—even though that party should be strong enough to carry it—unless, as we said before, we entirely mistake the feelings and opinions of the applicants, they will withdraw from the concern and fall back upon their “Young Men’s Scheme.” We confess we see a good many difficulties, advantages and disadvantages,—and in order to reach a satisfactory platform, there will be need of wisdom and forbearance, and also a good deal of generous and real christian feeling. We are quite aware that a little intrigue, nursed by suspicion and jealousy, may, to use an Irishism, tumble over the whole fabric before it is built—so that if success is to crown the effort, it must be by sincerity and honesty on all sides. We advance no argument in favor of the scheme. We simply state it. When it has assumed a tangible shape, and is in possession of the public, we will take the liberty of expressing our opinion thereon.