

institutions, however originating, have considered it necessary to seek for and obtain the Royal sanction and authority, for establishing the validity of their privileges and the powers they desired to enjoy; and that the Sovereign prerogative has been exercised in some instances without, and in other cases confirmatory of, parliamentary incorporation. Such instances are however sufficiently patent to the ordinary reader to prevent the necessity of recitation.

One point of great interest in this argument must not be overlooked. We find in the history of those revolutions which have altered the political constitution of some countries, and are justly said to have shaken society in them to its foundations, that the immunities and possessions derived from such authority, have been almost invariably respected and upheld. Examples of this honourable and pious observance of chartered powers and vested rights, are not wanting even where democracy is the ruling principle. It is well known, that in the United States there are institutions which still retain their original charters and endowments, confirmed by the national government.

To the character of the instruction imparted, even at the earliest periods of these schools, we find a religious tendency given—limited it may have been, in accordance with the spirit of the age—but still sufficiently distinctive.

At the commencement of the 12th century, when the general gloom which pervaded Europe was dispelled by the intellectual excitement of individual minds, we find the study of law and theology revived, and medicine assuming the character of a science. The learning of the East