They made a succession of attempts to render the funds available for the objects for which they were granted, but were thwarted in all their efforts, until Sir Charles Bagot— himself a distinguished member of the University of Oxford, and alive to the importance of such institutions—took up the subject with the zeal which became a governor and a chancellor.

If the council previously failed in their attempts to make a commencement of the actual work of instruction, it was their misfortune, not their fault; for they did every thing which could reasonably be expected of them. Up to 1837, the determined opposition of the Chancellor, Sir John Colborne, and the clamour for changes in the constitution, impeded all action; in the spring of that year, when the Act altering the Charter had been passed, great exertions were made to complete the arrangements for commencing, but the proceedings were stopped by the troubles of the winter; and the attempts to give at least partial efficiency to the institution, under Sir George Arthur, and Lord Sydenham, whilst in progress, were suspended by the Chancellor, amidst the excitement of the Union, and finally laid aside on the passing of the Bill for establishing a Presbyterian University. But to what, it may be asked, were the funds applied during this period? It appears from a parliamentary document, published in Vol. 3, Sess. 1843, that the disbursements during the fifteen years of the existence of the institution, amounted to 76797*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*, and yet the University had then been in actual operation but six months. On what objects, then, was this large amount expended? In the same document, the items are thus stated:—

"Assistance given to U. C. College ......£40130  4  4½
Purchase of site for the University, and College Avenue and grounds, with improvements in the fourteen (fifteen) years ..........................................£13148  1  9
Management and incidental expenses...£14787  15  2½
University buildings, outfit, &c. .........£ 8731  10  5"