

creep in or grow up and prevail, where there is imminent danger every moment of detection and retribution overtaking those who abuse or betray their trust. There is no impunity for delinquency, and no security to those who are conscious that they are liable at any time to be called to account, and can neither evade scrutiny nor bid defiance to their constituents and judges. The great recommendation of liberal and popular institutions is, that they afford the best and most effectual defence possible against the usurpations and abuses of selfishness and party spirit which are the bane, and ultimately the destruction of all establishments under the confront of irresponsible rulers. The certainty of having to reckon with these from whom their official power is derived, for whose benefit it is appointed to be exercised, who have a right at any time to enquire into the management of the trust and the discharge of its proper duties, is the most effectual preventive of corruption, mismanagement and neglect. And is education the least trust that can be delegated to the faith and honour of its depositories? Is it only in this case in which the highest and most precious interests of your children are concerned that you stand aloof, listless and supine, as if you had not a right, nay, an obligation, to watch, to enquire, to enforce a due regard to your interests; or, as if implicit and unbounded confidence were, in this instance only, to be given to those, whom in matters of infinitely less moment you watch over with unremitting and sensitive jealousy? As merchants, bankers, farmers, you look strictly and incessantly into the conduct and management of your clerks, bailiffs, stewards, you inspect their accounts, subject every part of their proceedings to a cautious and minute investigation, and you know well that if you did not exercise this jealous vigilance and circumspection your affairs would be mismanaged, and fall into confusion, and your interests would speedily suffer from their malversation or remissness. Be assured, gentlemen, that it is not less indispensably necessary, imperatively obligatory on you to look into the government and administration of your colleges and schools, than of your mercantile and banking establishments, if you would have all to go right.—They only insult your common sense, and set at defiance the universal judgment of mankind, founded upon universal experience, who tell you that as fathers you have not the first and the best right to be consulted in all that pertains to the paramount interest of your children's education, an interest not diminished as the department of education is more advanced. Be assured, gentlemen, that public responsibility is the vital and conservative principle of all public institutions, and of none more than those which are destined for the service of education. These institutions will be vigorous and flourishing just in proportion as they are formed to depend upon public opinion, to derive their strength from public sympathy and confidence, from the free, voluntary and generous support of an enlightened community, actuated by a general and lively conviction of the excellence of their constitution and purity and efficiency of their administration, just as the many members of the human body owe their strength and vital nourishment to the free circulation of the blood, and to the supply of animal

spirits, and all the elements of a sound and healthy constitution derived from the great common centres, reservoirs of life—the *heart* and the *brain*. Be assured, gentlemen, that if you do not look into the management of your universities, academies and schools immediately, or through your representatives freely elected by you for that purpose, and exercise a vigilant and jealous superintendence over those who govern and administer them, you will be the sufferers, and the amount of your loss and the damage done to your dearest and most invaluable interests it is not possible to estimate. The higher the trust the greater is the danger of abuse, the more imperative the obligation of watchful circumspection.—In the present instance, so far as you have gone, I do not know, how would it have been possible for human wisdom to make better prospective arrangements in order to command public confidence and to insure the prosperity and success of the projected academy. I would, therefore, just say in conclusion, that as you have every thing to animate your hope and to inspire your confidence of final and triumphant success, I trust you will go forward with a spirit of unity, energy and zeal worthy of so good a cause, so noble a design.—Gentlemen, I beseech you to ponder and to bear in mind the paramount value—for all the purposes which every enlightened father must regard as worthy of his first and chief ambition—of the institution which you are now labouring to build up, and you will think nothing too much to do and to sacrifice for the completion of so glorious a work, and let me further impress upon you, that it is by continuing to watch over the interests of your institution, and devoting yourself steadily and unreservedly to the extension and improvement of it, after it has been founded and reared up under your patronage and by your liberality, that you will consummate your enterprise, conferring an unspeakable boon upon this city, upon this country, highly propitious to the general cause of education and the best interests of the present and future generations.

The Rev. W. Squire then addressed the meeting in the following terms:—

MR. CHAIRMAN,—In rising to second the resolution now before you, I should consider it presumptuous to say anything explanatory after the full account of the principles of the proposed institution you have received; and, indeed, should not from my peculiar circumstances, have ventured to take any part in the present business had it not been for the advice of my friends, who were desirous of my appearance to shew our perfect concurrence in the object, as a Christian Society. Permit me, then, to say, that I have no doubt we shall be fully prepared to do our share of the work, and bear our proportion of the burden in carrying out the design of this meeting.

Moved by the Rev. W. Taylor, seconded by B. Holmes, Esq.

That, inasmuch as a number of subscribers have already been obtained, sufficient to warrant us in proceeding to secure the requisite teachers, and making the necessary preparatory arrangements, the following gentlemen be appointed a Provisional Committee, with instructions to carry the object into effect without delay, with power to add to their number.