

we should have sermonious debates, and personal disputes, that might have been avoided by a general discussion. We have had them. 3rd. I saw, that while every thing would be discussed, but one point, in the end, would be decided, and that we should have, at last to go into committee of the whole, and go over the same ground again. Besides this Bill, when it passes here, may be perilled elsewhere. It would have been in less danger, emanating as part of a general measure from committee of the whole, and going elsewhere, sanctioned by a large majority. Suppose it is carried here, we must wait its fortunes, or go on in doubt, discussing the general subject—suppose it lost, we must commence anew, with all the passions roused, by an invicious and fruitless discussion.

I have been amused by the reasons given by learned and honorable friends for adhering to a course fraught with so little wisdom. "We wish to clear a foundation." For what? Have they told us? Do they know? Who clears a foundation till he is ready to build—till he has the estimate, and the design? Who removes a pig sty till he knows for what he wants the ground? A Jewish synagogue may be an offence to the christian faith. But, if a party intended to destroy it, one section desiring to build a Turkish Mosque—another a Chinese Pagoda, and a third, an English Church, the Jews would be entitled to our pity, and the positions of the christians would not be much improved. The Bastille was a nuisance, yet anarchy followed its destruction, because those who razed it, wanted the prudence, the cohesion, and the unity of design, to put any thing valuable in its place. The guillotine rose upon its ruins first, and an imperial despotism soon after.

To clear foundations without being ready to build—to dismantle till I am prepared to make use of the materials, is not my mode of proceeding and never was. When I voted in 1843 for this bill, and for withdrawing all the collegiate grants, I had Mr. Annand's resolutions in my hand, embodying a consistent scheme of education, the very foundation of which was a general University, to be endowed out of the money saved, and situated in the capital of the province. And if I vote now for this bill it is because I am prepared to build as well as to destroy—to secure equality first, and then, with due regard to existing interests and institutions, to lay the foundation of a Free College, independent of sectarian influence and control. It is possible that, amidst the conflicting opinions and adverse views of friends and foes, I may stand alone. I have often done so, and may again—confiding in the strength of my position, and in the generous purposes to which I minister. Happy shall I be, if resembling the pile that stands in loneliness amidst the billows: Though the lights that flash around it reveal the deadly strife of war, its steady beam, cheering while it warns, invites the combatants at last to a haven of security and peace.

Let me invoke gentlemen on all sides to turn to this question without reference to per-

sonal rivalries or party triumphs. Suppose this Bill before us burnt, and all that has been said upon it forgotten, the ability and the worth of my young friend from Sydney would still be as sincerely prized. It surely cannot be necessary to add weight to the character of my hon. friend from Yarmouth, that he should win a personal triumph on a point of form. I listened on a former evening with much pleasure to the Speaker's narrative of the early history of King's College, but I ask him of what avails ingenious arguments here, if they end but in the destruction of existing institutions, without the creation of any other? and whether he thinks we shall not deal more wisely with the subject of Education, by mutual compromise and co-operation than by splitting the house in halves, and driving some of the ablest men in it into determined opposition? We want the learned Attorney General and the learned member from Annapolis, when we come to consolidate our laws. Do we not want them now? Is there no common ground? I think there is, and to both these gentlemen I would say, that they must be prepared to give up something before it can be wisely occupied. I take the broad subject of Education—we all agree that common schools shall be maintained, and that if the present law is continued, the largest possible sum shall be granted. We all agree that the people should be left to elect their own Trustees, and that the management should be popular. But we agree further. The Attorney General and the member for Annapolis are as enthusiastic as any of us in favor of a wider diffusion of common school privileges, in fact of universal Education. All admit the difficulties—but united all may hasten on the period when by a vigorous effort they may be removed. All are equally anxious to elevate our teachers as a class—all are agreed, I presume, that the County Academies shall be maintained. There is much common ground then, and if we differ on the college question, I am not without a hope that our differences may, by the application of a simple principle, be finally adjusted.

The first proposition to which I wish to invite attention is, the appointment of a Superintendent of Education, whose business it shall be to visit every school in the province in turn, inspect its management—suggest improvements, and report facts connected with the condition of education year by year, for the information of the Legislature and the Government. The old school Board was intended to perform this duty. It failed from its sedentary character, as any similar board must fail. But something better is required. In almost every county, almost every year, unseemly and perplexing disputes arise, the merits of which it is exceedingly difficult to elicit by correspondence. We have had these at Annapolis—at Clare—at Westport—at Shelburne—at Arichat—at Musquodobit, every where, and in some cases years have gone by before the facts could be discovered and gross injustice has been done for want of sufficient information. Into all such controversies a Superintendent would enquire