

# The

# Mitre.

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## ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES.

BY THE REV. J. P. WHITNEY,

THE NEW PRINCIPAL OF BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY.

Many changes have taken place in English education of late years, and few of them have been more striking than the multiplication of Universities. In England we are very apt to assume that any system which has grown up with us is sure to be the best, and that any change in it must of necessity, be for the worst. In most cases the Englishman is not given to change; he has a deeply rooted dislike to it, and there is no argument which he respects more than the "thin end of the wedge" objection to a proposed change. For years and years he will listen to discussions, he will buy (but not read) pamphlets and even small books on both sides of the question; then suddenly without any previous sign of wavering he will awake one morning to find that he has deserted his old standpoint, has been in fact fighting what we may call a "rear-guard action"; he will welcome and at least endure not only the thin end but even the "thick end" of the wedge itself.