

England, with a population more than sixty times that of Nova Scotia, has not more than eight Universities. In the United States, where the democratic and Federal system gives unusual encouragement to the growth of separate institutions, there is only about one College for a population equal to that of this province, if we can reckon even so many; as a number of the so-called Colleges are hardly entitled to the name, being in a very inefficient state indeed. Scotland, with ten times the population of Nova Scotia, has but six Colleges,—about one for a population of half a million,—while we have three or four for little more than half the number.

What we want is one complete and efficient University, not several imperfect ones, each deficient in one or more points of the first importance. We know that the present system does not supply one College meeting the requirements of the times, and we see by the experience of other countries that it cannot be reasonably expected that it ever will be able to do so.

Their sectarian character is the next impediment to the success of the existing Institutions. Men are averse to sending their sons where they may acquire a bias in favor of a different Church from that in which they wish to rear them; and, although there is no doubt that the Professors and Governors of the present Colleges act with the strictest honor on this point, and scrupulously abstain from influencing in any way the religious views of such of their pupils as belong to other denominations; still, the associating much with honored teachers and friendly fellow students of another sect, is apt to implant a leaning towards that sect—certainly to moderate the prejudices against it; a happy effect, in truth, if it operated equally in favor of all sects, but of more questionable advantage when it is in favor of one sect only. Besides, there is a sectarian *esprit de corps*, which renders men reluctant to aid in supporting and strengthening other religious denominations. These feelings combined must, and, as every one knows, do prevent the great majority sending their sons to our denominational Colleges. Many who would take advantage of the existing Colleges, imperfect as they are, are repelled from them by their sectarian character.

If we consider the necessary expenditure, and judge by the