

It is not my intention, because I am not able, and were I able, I do not think it necessary, to enter into a discussion of the comparative merits of *his* system of education, and that founded and followed by others of equal respectability.—There is a great variety of opinions on this point among mankind. Every system has its patrons, advocates and supporters.—It is sufficient for *us* to know by experience, and to witness by its beneficial results, that his system is a good one. Sir, after those highly gifted individuals—those benefactors of mankind—who have founded new, wise and improved systems of government and of education, may be ranked those generous and patriotic individuals, who support and patronize them—who lend a helping hand to extend the blessings and advantage, they are calculated to produce. What one among us here this evening who has contributed the smallest sum to the Institution whose anniversary we are met to commemorate, but must feel a proud satisfaction, a consolatory reflection, that he may have been the means of raising a human being from the depth of ignorance and indigence, to knowledge and comparative respectability—that he has conferred on a fellow-creature the greatest of human blessings, by enabling him through the influence of education, to learn his duty to his God, to his King, and to his Country, of becoming a useful Citizen, a loyal subject, and a good Christian.

But, Sir, among the numerous, active, and zealous supporters of this Institution, I know it will not be considered invidious if I point out one pre-eminent above the rest, to whom it is indebted for many invaluable benefits—I mean the Governor-General the Earl of Dalhousie—he has always extended to it his countenance and protection—laboured for its prosperity—constantly expressed a warm interest in its welfare, and liberally assisted it in pecuniary matters. His merits in this respect are not confined to us alone—for I see by the Report, that at the last anniversary he was elected an honorary Member of the Parent Institution, no doubt for his patronage of this infant establishment.

Amid the cares of a Government sufficiently arduous and difficult, he did not forget that the true end of all Government is the people's happiness, and that the principal means of accomplishing that desirable object was the encouragement of education among the lower classes of society, thereby improving their moral habits, enlightening their judgments, and enlarging their sphere of action. What one among you then, who has the common feeling of humanity, who has the slightest spark of gratitude in your bosoms, who has the least interest in the welfare and success of the Institution, but must join with me in expressing our heartfelt thanks, and deepest obligation to so excellent a benefactor and so liberal a patron.

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The An

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Earl of Dalhousie  
The Right Hon

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