

towards its stupendous consummation.

Confining ourselves to that Apostolic branch of the Christian Church, planted at a very early period of the Christian æra, in this kingdom, few words are necessary to demonstrate its fidelity in the performance of the first of its holy functions, the setting forth and establishment of the truth; for even Calvin's jaundiced eye could detect only *tolerabiles ineptias* in the English reformation; and, amongst our own separatists, few have ventured to carp at it as the pretext for their separation; but, employing every sort of artifice to fix their own gloss upon its exemplification of Christian doctrine, have, with almost one consent, eulogized its venerable authors, and celebrated the work which they began, and in a great measure completed, in the highest strains of admiration.

We may pass on then to the second function of the Church, that which is bound upon it as its perpetual labour, the diffusion of Scriptural truth. And, in order to do justice to this portion of the task which we have undertaken, it is no superficial investigation that is required.

We have first to survey the provisions made for rearing and continuing a faithful and efficient Ministry, and for inducing candidates to dedicate themselves to this holy calling: then we have to take an estimate of the process in which the work is conducted; first noticing the arrangements made, and the establishments formed, for its domestic execution; for laying a good foundation of it, in early life, and for following it up afterwards through its several stages to its attainment to maturity; and further, we have to set forth the means employed to extend its limits beyond our own borders to the whole family of man, all equally interested in the covenant of redemption, and all responsible for spreading the knowledge of it amongst their unconverted fellow-creatures, as they are them-

selves made partakers of its grace and mercy.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES.

Upon the plan just laid down, our public schools and universities, for the most part endowed from the Church's patrimony, or founded by the munificence of its Prelates and other distinguished members, claim our first attention. These are to be considered as the nurseries of sound religion, where the mind is formed upon scientific principles, which elicit all its powers, chastize its puerilities, and enlarge its comprehension; and where, by the invigorating exercise of human learning, reason is progressively matured, to the utmost extent of its powers, and is thus brought to the state which God, in the ordinary course of his providence, requires in all who aspire to the sacred character of Christian teachers, as preparatory to his imparting to them that wisdom from above which is indispensable to their success in those profound researches into the treasures of divine knowledge, which they are now to enter upon; and indispensable, therefore, to the due discharge of their awful responsibility. For neither the word of God, nor his conduct in the government of his Church, justify us in expecting more from him than—HELP to our infirmities. He affords us divine assistance where our own power fails, but never, except on extraordinary occasions, does he supersede human industry and human exertion. Our public schools and universities then are pre-eminently entitled to the foremost rank amongst the institutions which the Church fosters in its bosom, for the purpose of providing itself with a never failing supply of fit and able men to be its champions in maintaining, against all gainsaying and contradiction, the truth committed to its charge, and to do the work of Evangelists, in spreading the glad tidings which the truth contains: and the total absence of all respect of per-