

fears, the character of the instruction was by no means likely to allay them. From the very first it was fairly and distinctly avowed as a fundamental principle arising necessarily out of the constitution of their scheme, that Christian discipline and instruction would form no part of it; that while every mental faculty was to be cultivated, and every intellectual want would be supplied—the one thing needful was to be withheld, and the immortal prospects of those who should resort to them would be disregarded. Under these circumstances, emanating from such a source, and bearing in its front this capital defect, we cannot wonder that the scheme was coldly received by the public, or that so small a portion of the energies and resources of the country should have been moved in its behalf.* To the Establishment in particular the conjuncture must have been exceedingly ominous. Defective laws may sometimes be prevented of their sinister effects by a salutary counter-vailing principle in those who administer them; and on the other hand, a defective superintendence may be kept in order by the stubborn and unbending spirit of the laws; but when both the laws themselves and their administrators have the same bias, what hope can there be of any effectual resistance or restraint? Notwithstanding these prejudices, it must be confessed that the indisposition to the University was of no violent or obtrusive kind. It was a sentiment rather felt than expressed, or, if shown at all, appearing more in a decorous negation of support than in any active and substantive opposition. And good reason there was for this reserve. The liberal friends of the Church were well aware that in a country rising rapidly, like this, in wealth and population, and inflamed with an unusual ardour for knowledge, there was a call for more enlarged means of education than the existing institutions could supply. They were not insensible that plausible reasons might be urged in excuse even for the capital defect we have mentioned, and they felt that somewhat of the weight of their own objection would depend upon the extent to which the scheme might be carried, and upon the pretensions which were hereafter to be set up. They waited therefore patiently for that fuller development of the plan which had been promised to them; and though by no means sanguine in their expectations, they were anxious to learn by what healing measures it was proposed to compensate for this gross and palpable defect, and by what charm the promoters

* Of the Nobility, who have become contributors, there appears to be less than thirty; of Members of the House of Commons, under fifty; not a single Judge; very few eminent Lawyers; only one Bishop; few other Clergymen, and what may be considered as no doubtful indication of the public opinion, only a very few, comparatively speaking, of the more opulent and respectable Merchants and Bankers of London.