

The Parish Common Schools form the first step in the education of the rising generation; and, as the pupils in these schools are by far the most numerous, they deserve the first attention from our law makers; more especially too, as they include a class which cannot so well afford to procure the advantages of education for their children. I am not, therefore, in the observations I am now offering to you, in any way depreciating the advantages of the Common Schools, or wishing for one moment that their efficiency should be at all impaired. The next ascending step should be the grammar or superior school, for which the last Act provides, if the inhabitants comply with its provisions, in each parish; but this description of school, however ably conducted, cannot prepare young men for the study of physic, of law, or of divinity. There are, however, some excellent institutions in the Province, in which a knowledge of the higher branches of science can be acquired. Still a college education is necessary for some among our numerous young men, by which they may be prepared for the bar, or either of the other professions, and fitted to take their part in the various departments of the State, civil and military, now open to them by the introduction of the competitive system in England. It must be remembered that, in the race for appointments in the rich clime of India, or in most of the departments of the Imperial Government, the candidates will have to contend against men from the British Universities, and from the first schools of the United Kingdom. If, therefore, these Provinces intend to hold any rank in the British Empire; if their youth have sufficient ambition to vie with their fellow subjects at home, or in the other colonies, the means must be provided for placing them on an equal footing with their probable opponents. Let us, on this subject, refer to the example of England. That veteran in the cause of science and education, Lord Brougham, some thirty years ago, was the principal founder of an institution, then called the London University, designed, to extend the advantages of a scienti-

fic education to those who could not afford the expense of a residence at Oxford or Cambridge, and also to include those branches of useful knowledge, which at that time received but little attention at the existing seats of learning. After much opposition, the object was effected; its advantages became obvious; and a second institution of the same nature was established in London, under the name of King's College. In process of time, the benefits derived from both these Colleges forced conviction on the minds of many of their former opponents; and the consequence was the formation of a body called the London University, the name of Lord Brougham's foundation being changed to University College; and the new University included in its provisions, not only the original institution, but also King's College, and any other of the same nature, whose managers might be desirous of uniting with it. Thus the London University now comprehends many establishments, not only in London, but at Birmingham, and other large places; and its examiners confer degrees on students from any of these seminaries. The examining body is carefully selected; and, notwithstanding the jealousy with which its degrees were at first looked on by the adherents of the older Universities, the acquirements of its members have effectually established its reputation.

Cannot something of this nature be carried out in this Province? uniting perhaps with Nova Scotia in so desirable a purpose, and taking under its wing the several denominational colleges now existing in the Lower Provinces. All would of course be on precisely equal terms, and alike entitled to the honors and advantages of the United University.

If you will give place to these hints in your publication, they may perhaps come under the notice of some of our Legislators who have the cause of education at heart, and eventually be the means of devising some useful and comprehensive mode of effecting the object.

I am Sir, Yours, &c.,
NEMO.