

THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

THERE can be no doubt that the discovery of a satisfactory mode of settling the University question is the most important and difficult subject, to which the Legislature is expected to direct its attention, during the present session.

Its importance must be evident to every one, who is sensible of the value of education, and can appreciate the influence, which the University must exercise on the future welfare of the province, by the manner in which it discharges the high duty, which devolves on it, of forming the religious, moral, and intellectual character of those, who are destined hereafter to give a tone to society, and direct the public mind. The subject, intrinsically momentous, derives additional importance from the circumstances of the institution which it is proposed to modify;—King's College having been the first University established in Western Canada by royal charter, and enjoying an endowment of considerable value, conferred on it by royal grant—and from the consideration, that a vast amount of property may be affected by the decision in this case to be pronounced.

Nor is the difficulty of the question less apparent than its importance. The best mode of adapting public educational establishments to the wants and wishes of a mixed population is a problem, which has never yet been satisfactorily solved; and one of the peculiarities of the present enquiry, which causes additional doubt, is, that the legislature have to consider not merely *what* is to be done—but *how* it is to be done.

Every one, it may be presumed, will admit, that the essential requisites of a satisfactory settlement of the question are, that strict regard should be paid to justice—that the greatest amount of benefit to the community should be secured—and that the settlement should be final.