

On the passing of this law, there was some difference of opinion. Many were desirous of establishing common Schools throughout the Province ; and others were for the establishment of a University. Had the Revenue of the Province admitted, or had the lands appropriated for the purposes of education, become sufficiently productive, all parties might have been gratified ; because, the University as well as common Schools, might have been established, when the District Schools were put in operation : but as the sum in the power of the Legislature to grant, would have been of no use divided among all the Townships, scarcely five pounds each, and as the low state of education throughout the Province, rendered a University totally useless, for it could have had no Students, District Schools were the only alternative. Had circumstances been otherwise, and a choice in the power of the Legislature, the situation of the Province would have suggested at that time, District in preference to common Schools or a University. They were calculated to give such an education as qualified young men for the different professions, and to become excellent nurseries for the University, when it could be established.

These advantages have been reaped, and the Legislature fully justified in its conduct. No University has been yet founded, but many of the young gentlemen taught at the different District Schools, are now eminent in their professions, and would do credit by their talents and integrity to Seminaries of greater name.

On the passing of this law, Schools were established in each District, that at Kingston under the direction of Mr. Whitelaw, was exceedingly prosperous, and still proceeds with increasing reputation under his successor. The School at Cornwall, deprived of all the pupils from the westward, who were properly retained at their own District Schools, kept up and even increased its numbers from Lower Canada. At present, the District Schools are as flourishing as any public institutions can be expected ; some complaints have indeed been made, but they are of a partial nature, and do not militate against the principle of the law. In one or two Districts, it must be confessed, that all the good which might have been anticipated, has not been produced, and these supply the complainants with their arguments against the Bill ; but the fault arose from the jealousy which at that time pervaded the House of Assembly. The Mem-