

The University Act of 1853 is invoked on behalf of the double affiliation party, and, from their point of view, with plausibility. At the same time, a brief consideration of the objects of that statute and the reasons assigned for it, would conclusively show that nothing could be more alien from its spirit, or so diametrically opposed to its scope and aim, than the novel agitation inaugurated in its name. The framers of the act were far from intending, when they remodelled the University, to make it one of a family of kindred institutions, equal in power and dignity. On the contrary, their obvious purpose was to render it *par excellence*, the National University and the scheme of affiliation adopted clearly makes manifest their earnest desire gradually to draw under its sheltering wing all the collegiate institutions of the Province. It was for this that they enlarged its basis, lengthened its cords, and strengthened its stakes. They were animated by the desire, though perhaps scarcely cheered with the hope, of one day reuniting the scattered members of the body academic, so as to complete and clothe with noble dignity the maimed and imperfect creation into which they had infused anew the breath of a higher, freer, and more vigorous life. By them, a proposal to make a further distribution of the degree-conferring power, and to enable schools and colleges of any kind to trade in its honours and make merchandize of its good name, would have been rejected with anger and disdain. The Legislature has, unfortunately, chosen the devious path leading to weakness, rivalry, and division. Side by side with the University which was designed to be the *corona vitæ academicæ*, it has given University privileges to any who coveted them. No one who is jealous for the pre-eminence of the people's University, though he may have reluctantly abandoned the dream of those who framed the Act of 1853, can desire to disparage the intellectual standing of any of the other Universities; it would be as unjust as it is unnecessary to do so. At the same time, it requires little penetration to discern in multiplied affiliations; a necessary corollary to the multiplication of Universities, followed, as must be, by the unworthy theory that they all stand upon a footing of equality, whether the property of churches and corporations or the noble heritage of an entire people. It is

this new gloss upon the Act of 1853, by which it is designed to play off against the dignity of the Provincial University, the claims of each, or it may be all, of its competitors, that we firmly and vehemently protest against.

The Electoral Commission, upon which the hopes of both American parties were fixed, has bitterly disappointed Mr. Tilden and the Democrats. The decision arrived at by this tribunal, or board of arbitration, as it may be termed, has left the vexed question of the Presidency where it found it, with the important qualification that, in the end, the faith of both parties is pledged to abide by its decision. It is singular that a body so carefully selected as this commission, the members of which solemnly swore to decide impartially every question submitted to them, should, after all, be divided into unequal sections by a rigid party line. Five of the Congressional representatives belong to each party, and of the five Supreme Court Judges, three are Republicans, and two are Democrats. Had not Judge Davis been chosen as U. S. Senator for Illinois—and it was by a fortuitous combination of two parties that he was elected—he would have occupied Judge Bradley's position, and, in all probability, voted with the Democratic members of it. Now, upon all material questions, and in the absence of Mr. Davis, eight Republicans have carried their point against seven Democrats. Such is the irresistible power of party bias, that men of acknowledged ability and unimpeached integrity have found themselves unable to disentangle themselves from its trammels. Mr. Herbert Spencer merely appeals to universal experience when he observes: 'That the verdicts which will be given by different party-journals upon each ministerial act may be predicted, and that the opposite opinions uttered by speakers and applauded by meetings concerning the same measure, may be foreseen if the political bias is known; are facts from which anyone may infer that the party politician must have his feelings greatly moderated before he can interpret, with even approximate truth, the events of the past, and draw correct inferences respecting the future.' ('Study of Sociology,' p. 265.) The course pursued by the Electoral Commission affords strik-