

perseveringly pursued. On more than one occasion, he made proposals to the Vice-Chancellor of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin, and also to the professors in some of the Scottish colleges, by which he offered several munificent prizes to be adjudged according to the rules of those respective bodies, to the authors of the best compositions in prose and verse upon some religious subject connected with India, to be named by himself, and approved of by the Universities. These proposals were invariably accepted. In one of them the sum of £50 : was offered to each of the English Universities.

In this way, through the medium of several valuable tracts, which appeared almost daily upon the same momentous topics, much information continued to be laid before the public, until at length, in the course of a debate on the renewal of the East India Company's charter, the matter was incidentally brought before the House of Commons by His Majesty's ministers. This led to a fair discussion on the subject; during which those members of the house, who were friendly to the measure of establishing an Episcopacy in India, were afforded a full opportunity for stating the grounds upon which they supported it, and upon which they deemed such a provision indispensable to the progress of Christianity in those vast regions, and to the honor of the nation at large.

Many of the arguments used on the occasion were of course similar to those which had been already urged from the press. It was shown how vain any attempt, that might be made to carry on the work of the ministry in the East Indies in connexion with the National Church, must prove, even supposing that the number of clergymen employed were adequate to meet the wants of the people, unless one or more bishops were settled amongst them to ordain young men on the spot, and to confer the blessing conveyed in the apostolic rite of Confirmation upon those persons, who, having been received into the Church of England at their Baptism, were instructed from infancy to look forward to, and prepare themselves for that office. The advantage possessed by the Roman Chatholics over us was too apparent to admit of any question. But that the number of our clergy in India was altogether inadequate to the performance of the ordinary duties of the profession clearly appeared from the fact that, in Bengal, (and this is a Presidency better supplied than perhaps any other,) the number of chaplains' stations amounted to fifty only, while the estimated protestant population was 63,200 souls. Several of the stations also, it was well known, had been without the offices of religion for many years. The probability was that these vacancies would have been filled up as they occurred, had there been in the country some spiritual head whose authority might extend over the ecclesiastical affairs of the several Presidencies. Many evils resulted from the necessity of seeking a supply of clergy from the mother country. Much time was lost in awaiting a reply to the representations which were for-