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I. Education in Various Countries.

1. UNIVERSITY EXTENSION IN ENGLAND.

The Sub-Committee, lately appointed at a meeting of the heads of houses and others, at Oxford, to consider the suggestion for extending the University by founding one or more Colleges or Halls for the poorer classes of students, have agreed upon the following Report. The subject being an interesting one, we are induced to print the Report *in extenso* :—

“It will not be necessary, in the present Report, to argue at length the question that a need exists for the extension of the University in some form or another. The expression of opinion on this head, both within the University and without, has been decisive. But some explanation may be due of the precise form which the idea of University extension took in the minds of those who first moved in the matter in last Michaelmas Term, and whose own views are more especially represented by the present Sub-Committee.

“That which presented itself to their minds as the most obvious and pressing, though far from the sole ground of University extension, was the unquestionable duty of the Universities to provide for the education of the great body of the national Clergy. They considered that the strong and just feeling of the country in favour of a highly-educated Clergy ought to meet with a warm response here; and that not the least ground on which the government of the Universities continues to be entrusted to the Church of England is, that they are, or ought to be, the great seminaries of her Clergy.

“It is obvious, however, that a movement, the aim of which is to enable Oxford to fulfil more completely this her function of

educating the clergy, does not imply that the extension of the University should be clerical in any other or more narrow sense than the existing body. The same facilities which were intended, primarily, to draw to the University candidates for Holy Orders, would, in fact, unless guarded by some special regulations, be equally open to those who had other professions in view. And to make any such special regulations was not, from the first, any part of the plan which has resulted in the nomination of this Sub-Committee. Coupled, indeed, with the feeling that the University was not doing her fair share in the work of clerical education, was another, that the system of Local Examinations required, as its natural complement, some further movement which should enable those, whose talents and attainments were drawn out and recognised by means of these Examinations to follow out their studies, if so disposed, within the pale of the University itself.

“Still, the primary fact before them was, that the education of the Clergy, which has been from time immemorial the staple work of Oxford, seemed to be in a large measure passing out of her hands. The annexed table of the English and Welsh ordinations of the year 1841, and of the last sixteen years, shows (a) that the ordinations of the last eight years are less by 319 than those of the eight years preceding, a difference of which the significance is enhanced by the fact that during the last ten years 674 new parishes or districts have been formed. (b) That the diminution is entirely in the number of Clergy educated in the old Universities. Indeed, the number of Literates ordained, which twenty-five years ago was quite insignificant, has on the average of the last six years been 135, only 22 less than have been annually, during the same six years, ordained from Oxford.

	1841	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857
Oxford	242	211	215	199	211	203	169	171	195
Cambridge	270	252	222	234	291	187	225	215	208
Durham	13	21	23	27	21	27	29	30	22
Dublin	33	50	41	38	41	30	40	40	51
Literates	48	88	113	104	128	77	99	120	130
Total.....	606	622	614	602	632	524	562	570	606

	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865
Oxford	179	181	162	159	120	155	183	166
Cambridge.....	222	257	227	219	178	196	184	182
Durham	32	25	16	21	13	21	7	12
Dublin	29	29	29	30	82	32	27	29
Literates ..	133	123	133	141	146	119	124	146
Total.....	595	615	567	570	489	523	525	535