

province, caused violent opposition to the plan, as soon as it became known, of obtaining a royal charter for the college. This determined opposition to the plan of the trustees was maintained chiefly by one of their number, the only Presbyterian at their board, Mr. William Livingston; a gentleman by his birth, his connexions, and his position in society; by his superior education, his industry and talents as a lawyer, already eminent; and afterwards, in the various high stations which he filled, greatly distinguished for patriotic devotion to his country. A declared enemy of all church establishments, he, in this matter of the college, was actuated by conscientious probably, but mistaken, views of the design and tendency of the incorporation which he so zealously endeavoured to defeat. With this view, he commenced on the 22d of March, 1753, in *The Independent Reflector*, a paper published under his direction, his "Remarks on our intended College." After considering, first, the great importance of the institution, he goes on, in subsequent numbers, to discuss the proper mode of its establishment, which he insists should be, not by *Charter*, but by *Act of Assembly*: in which case it was taken for granted that the plan of the institution would be more consistent with the views of those who professed themselves advocates "for constituting a college on a basis the most catholic, generous, and free."

This controversy, which became on both sides a very angry one, was not terminated by the granting of the charter; but took after that a somewhat different shape, in the resistance then opposed by Mr. Livingston and his associates to the passage of any law transferring the moneys raised for the endowment of a college from the hands of the Trustees to those of the Governors now appointed under the charter; and also in their endeavours to obtain an Act of Assembly, which, notwithstanding this charter to King's College—invidiously styled by them a *Trinity-Church College*—should establish another, a *New-York College*, in its place. They denied the right of the trustees appointed in 1751 to apply monies raised by general tax, to the establishment of a college connected with any particular religious denomination. They entertained, however, an especial jealousy of its connection with the Church of England; for the Episcopalians, though comparatively few in number, had nevertheless a great ascendancy in the province; its chief public offices being, in almost every instance, filled by them. Their natural wish, moreover, and their repeated applications for a Bishop, to complete the organization of their church within the colonies, had inspired, and especially about this time, a dread of some design to extend to this country the ecclesiastical establishment of England.

*The Independent Reflector*, the organ of Mr. Livingston's opposition to the college, ceased with its 52nd number, on the 22nd of November, 1753; the printer, Parker, refusing to go on with it. In the month of January following, Mr. Livingston reprinted the whole, with a long preface; and bearing on its title-page, "Printed until tyrannically suppressed in 1753."

Contemporary with this *Independent Reflector*, but of less note, were several publications relating to the college controversy, and turning upon the same points that Mr. Livingston professed to have in view.

In the charter of King's College, which though delayed by the resistance it encountered, was granted finally on the 31st of October, 1754, in spite of it, Mr. William Livingston was named as a governor; but he refused to take the required oaths, or to act as such, and seems to have been embittered against the college, rather than propitiated by this endeavour, if such it were, to soothe him."

The observations contained in the following are so strictly applicable to the state of our

own College question, that we need offer no apology for introducing them:—

"If our college were situated in a small town, and its students lived within its walls, then should we regard us indispensable, in order that religion might hold its due place in the education of our youth, that its religious character should be distinctly marked, that it should belong not exclusively, but in especial manner and avowedly, to some one denomination—should be what is invidiously styled sectarian. Nor would this form any objection against it with the wise and pious President of a sister institution, who observes that "in this country, where we have no established church, it is difficult to define a sectarian, unless it be a man who differs from us in religious sentiments. So that in fact, with the exception of a few who have no opinions or care on this subject, we are all sectarians, and to exclude sectarianism from a literary institution is to exclude all religion from it. And such is usually the result, when it attempts so to trim its course as to suit all parties. But really, of all kinds of intolerance, that is the worst which is furious for toleration, and that the worst kind of sectarianism which is fierce for irreligion. The only truly liberal and manly course for an institution to adopt, is openly to avow its creed. Such a course does indeed make the institution sectarian, that is, it shows a preference for some particular system of religion; but it is an honest course, and the only honest course that can be taken." At the same time, the peculiar religious opinions of students, whatever they may be, should not, in the award of literary honours, be regarded, nor suffered to exercise the slightest influence. All of all denominations should stand here on even ground, and "in this respect the motto of the ancient Tyrian queen should be adopted by every teacher:

"Tros Tyriusquo mihi nullo discrimine agetur."

But this liberal allowance to others, of a freedom of opinion which we claim for ourselves, is not to be confounded with, nor to become a careless indifference, and we should not seek the praise of enlightened toleration at the expense of any timid compromises in religion. The minds of serious men seem to be everywhere awakened now to a conviction of the great importance of laying the foundation of human learning in religion. The alarming results to which the statistics of crime in some countries recently have led—the fact that the frequency and enormity of crimes have been found in direct proportion to the illumination of the people, wherever the lights from which it was derived, instead of being kindled on the altars of religion, flowed from the false glare of infidel philosophy, or mere worldly wisdom;—these startling facts have of late drawn forth acknowledgments from various quarters, of the high importance of training up youth, not in science and letters only, but in the nature and admonition of the Lord—of the great importance of teaching them religion, and the impossibility of doing so upon the plan of those who either have not any clear and well-defined religious faith, or else want the courage to proclaim it.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(Copy.)

No. 1.

Windsor Castle, July 17th, 1833.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 15th instant, with the enclosures, and to acquaint you, that having submitted them to the King, I have, by His Majesty's command, transmitted them to Sir Thomas Hardy, who will, I doubt not, pay every attention to the interesting subject.

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. TAYLOR.

Lieutenant —, &c. &c. &c.

(Copy.)

No. 2.

Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy presents his compliments to Lieut. —, and begs to inform him, that Sir Thomas has received His Majesty's Commands to see Lieut. —. Sir Thomas therefore requests that he will do him the favor to call at the Admiralty on Saturday next, at 12 o'clock.

Admiralty, July 18th, 1833.

Lieut. —,

General Service Club, Grafton St., Bond St.

(Copy.)

No. 3.

Langton's Cottage, Farnham Royal, Bucks, Aug. 21st, 1833.

GENTLEMAN,—At a period when the question of discovery of a practical remedy for dry rot has been so much discussed throughout the country, and when a variety of schemes, more or less expensive in their nature, have been brought successively forward, without, however, embracing that economy which, to render them of moment, should be more immediately their adjunct, I am enabled to lay before you the fact of my being in possession of a preventive which, while highly capable of attaining the object proposed, is, nevertheless characterized by almost utter absence of expense.

After the number of futile plans which have been successively submitted to your Honorable Board, it may naturally excite doubt whether another, and that other proposed by a member of so distinct a branch of the King's service, will be more likely to succeed; but the difficulty arising from such distrust will, I am persuaded, be satisfactorily removed, when the several essences of the protecting principle shall have been made known to you. These so wholly embrace within themselves the virtues necessary to the object now contemplated, that they will not fail to strike you as affording the strongest recommendation to an essay of their efficacy.

That my secret is the fruit of long practical experience, and not the mere wild speculation of the theorist, will be evident to you, Gentlemen, from the fact of my having obtained the communication of its existence to His Majesty, who has been graciously pleased to cause attention to be paid to the subject by Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy, at whose suggestion I address this letter to your Honorable Board.

I beg to add, that I shall make it a point of duty to attend to any interview with whomsoever you may deem it proper to delegate for the discussion of this highly important subject,—one day's notice by General Post, being all that I require for preparation.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

Lt. H. P. 2nd Regt.

The Honorable the Navy Board.

(Copy.)

No. 4.

Admiralty, 23d August, 1833.

SIR,—Having laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 21st instant, on the subject of your invention of an economical plan to prevent dry rot in ship timber, and I am commanded by their Lordships to acquaint you, that the Surveyor of the Navy will be ready to communicate with you, whenever you may wish; but you are clearly to understand that their Lordships do not wish to give you any further trouble on the subject.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) GEORGE ELLIOTT.

Lieut. —,

Langton's Cottage, Farnham Royal, Bucks.

(Copy.)

No. 5.

Langton's Cottage, Farnham Royal, Bucks, Aug. 26, 1833.

SIR,—Having been referred to you by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, through their Secretary, on the subject of a