

different Denominations in Upper Canada.

Your petitioners respectfully ask your attention to a constitutional objection to the Charter of the University. It is not only degrading to a large majority of the people of this Province, but it also lays a restriction upon the free exercise of the prerogative of the Crown. By the religious test required of the Governor, Lt. Governor, or administrator of the province, as Chancellor of the University, his Majesty is disabled from appointing to that high office the person whom he may think best qualified and most worthy of the appointment, if he should happen not to be a member of the Church of England; unless he will consent to change his religious creed for the sake of the office. No such official qualification for administering the Government is required by law or the constitution. This illegal and unconstitutional restraint upon the exercise of the royal prerogative may, and we humbly think ought, to be removed, by expunging from the charter the principle of exclusion.

We object against giving the University a political character. A seminary of learning in a province like this, should be a seat of the muses, secluded from the storms of politics, and the passions and prejudices of party. The political privilege of representation attached to a university in this province, renders its exclusive principle still more objectionable and unjust.

When the Provincial Legislature, in their last act apportioning representatives among the several counties and towns, provided, in case of the organization of a university in the province, that its corporation should be entitled to elect a member of the House of Assembly, it was not expected or intended that this privilege should inure to the sole benefit of one church, by an exclusion of all others from the corporation.

Against this compound evil we seriously protest and humbly, but most earnestly pray your Honourable House to take such measures as you in your wisdom may judge most effectual for obtaining a redress of these grievances:—And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed)

EDWARD ARMSTRONG,
and 57 others.

January, 1828.