

gregationalism, and that the claims of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia on our Churches have induced a special effort to increase the funds of our beloved Colonial Missionary Society. The above mentioned fields are occupied in accordance with Mr. Wilkes' suggestions. May the Lord of the harvest smile on the labours of his servants, and grant them abundant fruit.

Our readers will recollect an interesting letter we published sometime since, addressed to the Rev. H. Wilkes, by the Rev. D. S. Ward, for many years the efficient Pastor of the Congregational Church at St. Johns, Newfoundland. Recent intelligence from that Island announces the removal of that beloved brother from all his toils here, to the reward of grace in the Church triumphant. His last illness was protracted and severe; but beyond this fact, we have no particulars. He was in his 58th year. We understand the Church have written to the Colonial Missionary Society, or rather to one of its Secretaries, the Rev. Algernon Wells, London, craving his interposition to obtain for them a suitable successor to Mr. Ward. As the "Harbinger" is read at St. Johns, we take the opportunity of conveying to the bereaved widow and Church, expressions of our condolence and sympathy.

As the Editor, who left the city immediately upon the issue of our last number, has been unexpectedly detained from home, the preparation of this number has been confided to other hands. This will account for the non-appearance of the promised summary of proceedings in relation to McGill College. Our city readers will have observed with gratification the dignified and admirable cause pursued by the Montreal Gazette. The Editor of that respectable journal has placed the opponents of College Reform on the horns of a dilemma, where for the present we leave them, merely subjoining a copy of a petition to the Legislature, which has been very numerously signed. It is hoped that our friends in the country will take up the subject, and petition. A memorial to Her Majesty has been prepared, and is now in course of signature.

*Unto the Honorable the Legislative Council of the Province of Canada in Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of the undersigned Clergy and other Citizens of Montreal,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That your petitioners, deeply impressed with a conviction of the great advantages that would result to this country from cordial union among all classes and interests in prosecuting the objects of Education, especially University Education, beg to represent to Your Honorable House, that the arrangements and management of the University of McGill College, Montreal, and the University of King's College, Toronto, are sectarian; and therefore, as Public Institutions, they are not adapted to the wants of the country.

In regard more particularly to the first mentioned University, the Will of the munificent founder, the late Honorable James McGill, expressly requires the "Royal Institution for the advancement of Learning" as created by a Provincial Statute, to expend the estate and money bequeathed in the erection and establishment of "an University or College, for the purposes of Education and the advancement of Learning in the Province," making no mention whatever of Theology as a subject to be taught, much less of any section of the Christian Church, as a party who should have preponderate influence in its management. Your Petitioners therefore humbly submit to the consideration of Your Honorable House, that the Testator designed that McGill College should be for the public benefit, and should be conducted as a Public Institution in accordance with those enlarged and liberal principles which alone are suited to this age and country. Moreover, Your Petitioners have knowledge that an application will be made to Your Honorable House for a sum of money from the Provincial Treasury, to aid in the support of McGill College,—a procedure which places the Institution before the Legislature and country, as open to Legislative inspection and interference; though without this act on the part of its managers, Your Petitioners consider the College as intended for the general benefit of the country, and amenable to public sentiment constitutionally expressed.

Your Petitioners further represent to Your Honorable House, that at the request of the "Royal Institution for the advancement of Learning," His late Majesty, George IV., granted a Royal Charter constituting the University or College, in which Charter, although the phrase "true religion" appears, yet no vestige of ground is given on which sectarian management could be legitimately based;—and by which Charter certain official personages are appointed Governors, with power to frame statutes, &c., that shall have force, provided the Royal assent be first obtained. Two of the offices adverted to in the Charter have become extinct in the progress of those changes through which the country has passed since the date of the Charter,—namely, those of Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada, and Bishop of Quebec; so that there remain of those appointed by the Crown in the Charter, only his Excellency the Governor General who declines to act, the Chief Justice of Montreal, and Chief Justice of Upper Canada, together with the Principal of the University for the time being. Hence Your Petitioners entreat Your Honorable House to observe, that inasmuch as the distance of the one High Legal Officer from the seat of the University, as also the professional and momentous duties of both these distinguished Judges, ne-