

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

FEBRUARY, 1856.

~~~~~  
"THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—Prov. xix. 2.  
~~~~~

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AND DALHOUSIE COLLEGE.

THE cause of Collegiate Education in Nova Scotia has been peculiarly unfortunate. In few countries has it been the subject of as much discussion, well-meant and vigorous exertion and violent strife, as in this Province, and yet with so little result. From the time when Dr. McCulloch first raised the standard against the system, by which one church had the monopoly of the higher branches of education, and subscription to the thirty-nine articles was made a prerequisite to the enjoyment of a Collegiate training, until the present moment, the subject has kindled the fires of contention in the newspaper press, the Legislative Halls, the Ecclesiastical Assemblies, and in almost every village and hamlet in the country. Much praiseworthy zeal has been manifested and great exertions have been made in different quarters. And yet local interests, sectarian jealousy, and, more than all, the miserable time-serving of our public men have so far prevailed, that at the present moment we have not an institution which can pretend to discharge the functions of a Provincial University—none which reflects credit upon us as a people, or which any Nova Scotian can contemplate with pleasure.

Is this state of things to continue? Are we never to have a *real* University? These are questions in which every inhabitant of the Province who regards the welfare of the present and future generations, is deeply interested. In other countries, vast exertions are being made for the extension of their collegiate system. In the mother country, institutions, which we would think large enough already, are being extended to meet the wants of the age, while in most of our sister colonies provision is being made in the most liberal manner, either for the introduction of an adequate system of instruction in the higher branches, or the extension of it where it already exists. Is Nova Scotia then to lag behind? We would be glad if circumstances permitted us to avoid the discussion of this subject in our pages, but such being the present state of the case, the deep interest which our church has in the subject, and her past exertions on behalf of this cause, as well as its own intrinsic importance, forbid us to pass it by.

■ The necessity of institutions for the higher branches of knowledge we