

gentlemen in that Senate. Each of the various affiliated Colleges has its own requirements for matriculation and graduation; each has its own course of study and methods of instruction peculiar to itself; its own term of study, in one case of three years, in another of five; in one of four years, of nine months each; and in another of four years, of six months each. Some of the Colleges claim to be nearly equal to an English or Scotch University, and some are pronounced to be no better than High Schools. To bring them all to accept the same curriculum, and be satisfied with it, and to make the terms of study in all synchronize, will require no small amount of ingenuity and patience. Possibly the task can be accomplished, but we shall believe it possible, when the work is done. If some of these Colleges are as low in rank as they have been publicly represented to be, it will be a great gain to the intellectual life of the country, if they can be raised; but there is certainly as much probability that the institutions holding the highest rank, will have to descend to some lower level to co-operate with other affiliated Colleges, as that the lowest will be raised to the grade of the highest. Legislators can borrow the terms of an act, and pass a law, without much trouble, but to introduce a new University, which shall be so fitted to the wants and demands of the country, as to make it effective and useful, will require a higher order of talents than is expected in the copyist. The University of London may be a grand thing in England, but one on that model may be quite out of place in Nova Scotia. We are strongly inclined to think that the copy of the English model, which has been introduced here, will have to be considerably modified, before it can serve any good end in this Province.

The surprising difference of opinion in regard to the purpose for which the new University exists, strengthens the probability that it will be of small practical benefit. Some of its friends declare that it was intended to prepare the way for a teaching University; and some of its enemies understand that this is the real purpose of its existence, and for that very reason will have nothing to do with it. On the other hand, some of its friends declare that the existence of a University for conducting examinations and con-

ferring degrees, makes the creation of a teaching University impossible; and a portion of the opponents of the University of Halifax are determined to destroy it for the reason that it stands in the way of the creation of a teaching University.

It must be a mysterious institution, the friends of which thus differ among themselves in their reasons for perpetuating it, and the enemies of which are equally at variance in their reasons for wishing its destruction. This ambiguity in regard to its purpose and object must be removed, before it can command the confidence of an intelligent constituency.

Who shall Decide when Doctors Disagree?

SUCH, methinks, is the least that youthful modesty could have admitted after an unprejudiced investigation of the University question; a question which has been advocated by some of our scholars in this land, and repudiated by others; men who have met in the conflict with their mental weapons newly furbished, all the powers of matured and cultivated thought. They differed—sincerely doubtless. We had hoped, since this subject had been so thoroughly debated in the political and religious periodicals, that we would not be forced into any controversy, nor would we have inaugurated any such unwise discussion. But the Mount Allison Oracle has twice spoken in unambiguous terms, as if determined to provoke a response, or vex our ears with a solitary and monotonous gabble like that of “poor poll.” Not to force the analogy too far, we would say that it is not always the part of a wise man to lie passive beneath the strokes of a fool, though he wield but a sword of lath. Lo! what have we here? An exemplification of the proverb: “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.” Fledglings assaying a condor flight; undergraduates of a three year College sitting self-appointed censors over men, old enough, wise enough, popularly respected enough, to have commanded some little respect for their opinions, and veneration for themselves, from gentlemen, however high-soaring their aspiration in controversy, dogmatical their opinions, or obstinate their conclusions.