

University founded in London, upon principles which can receive the unqualified sanction, not only of the well-informed people of this country, but of all the enlightened men of Europe. Assuredly, therefore, it cannot command so great an extent of admiration and respect, if the CHARTER OF INCORPORATION give to the conductors the power of raising up obstacles, in the form of CURRICULA, which shall prevent all persons, excepting the students of a few favoured institutions, from being received as the legitimate candidates for degrees. Such obstacles would create another monopoly of a scarcely less objectionable character than that of Oxford and Cambridge. The principles of government, in order to be *just*, must be *simple*; but there is neither justice nor simplicity in withholding from genius and talent their full share of honourable reward. The production of "certificates of attendance," too often given by the professor in the absence of any personal knowledge of the student, cannot increase the acquirements of the candidates, either in number or utility. If the great scholastic institutions which this charter, it is supposed, is designed especially to favour, do not dread a competition with the private, less ostentatious, more retired establishments, in many of which are taught the higher branches of knowledge, how can the conductors and supporters of the former honestly and reputably contend that all students ought not to be placed upon an exactly equal footing in the Examination Hall of the new University? If distinctions be made, if exceptions be introduced, they must operate as unjustly in London as they have already operated in Oxford and Cambridge. If it be not the object to confer honour upon the acquirements of genius, let an acknowledgment to that effect be made at once; and if it be the intention to confer titles in learning and science, *as a species of reimbursement for the expenditure of so much money under the operation of a ticket-and-certificate sys-*

tem, then, also, let *that* intention be honestly confessed. If the exceptions to which we have here briefly adverted, be actually made in the new charter, the public will naturally and correctly conclude, that there exists a desire, from some motive or other, to give an *artificial* value to the education of persons who are instructed in particular establishments. Such a proceeding is not fair. It is infinitely beneath the object of a great and liberal government, and the scheme would no sooner be in operation than it would be productive of very general dissatisfaction; the honours which it would be designed to confer, would carry with them no weight or importance among the enlightened portion of the community. We refrain, however, from now offering another word on the subject, in the hope that the advisers of the Crown will take the earliest possible opportunity of publishing a draft of the charter which it is their intention to frame for founding and governing the metropolitan University. When this document is before the public, then, and not until then, shall we be placed in a position to object, by petition and remonstrance, to the obnoxious clauses, if there be any such, in the new royal instrument.

THE following note accompanied the communication which will be found at page 466 of the present Number of our Journal:—

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—As secretary (*pro tempore*) of "The Medical Association of the Tunbridge Union," I am requested to forward for your information, and, should you think proper, for publication also, the minutes of the proceedings of our different meetings.

I have endeavoured to give you all the facts connected with them as concisely as possible, and our object in sending them is, through your means, to invite our professional brethren to form local associations, to terminate in those of the county, and under the idea that one or two gentlemen from each county might unite to form a deputation to his Majesty's Ministers, for the purpose of obtaining redress of the grievance. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. WAY.

Tunbridge Wells, Dec 1, 1835.

In placing this note before our readers we may state, that although we approve of the purpose therein mentioned, we consider that if medical gentlemen would but combine to suggest a plan for amending the state of the law with regard to the treatment of the sick poor in the new parochial unions, it would be infinitely preferable to making any application to the Ministers on the subject. It is not right either that the sick poor of this kingdom, or the surgeons of England, should be left to the mere mercy of any set of men, whatever may be their station, their respectability, or the benevolence of their intentions. Experience has already proved that *the law* is defective. It is *the law*, therefore, that must be made more perfect; but it cannot be expected that the members of the Legislature will be very hearty in their condemnation of the proceedings of the Poor-Law Commissioners, or their assistants, unless medical gentlemen can themselves point out what ought to be the rule of law which should invariably be observed in making the contracts between Boards of Guardians and parochial medical attendants. We hope, therefore, should deputies from the county associations assemble in London, that they will visit the metropolis fully instructed by their constituents as to the plan for which the medical practitioners of England would be anxious to obtain the sanction of the Legislature. It is quite evident that there must be some definite settlement of the question out of doors before it can be brought forward again within the walls of Parliament.

The insertion of the communications of Mr. WAY would have taken place last week had not a want of space rendered their publication at that time impossible. The statements contained in the reports are calculated to excite the utmost feelings of indignation against the authors of the insults offered to the deputation, in the mind of every man of correct gentlemanly feelings who peruses them.

THE Chair of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, vacated by the death of Professor TURNER, has been conferred in a very honourable and flattering manner on our distinguished anatomist and physiologist, Sir CHARLES BELL. The only thing we have to regret in making this announcement is, that the emoluments of the office are not commensurate with the value of those services which Sir CHARLES BELL has already conferred on mankind. The following paragraph relative to this appointment, is taken from the *Courier* of Dec. 12 :—

“The Reformed Town Council of Edinburgh have done themselves great credit by their unanimous appointment of Sir CHARLES BELL to the important Chair of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh. We cannot conceive a more disinterested or praiseworthy discharge of public duty. There are at present several surgeons in Edinburgh, of distinguished ability, though unquestionably not one of them enjoys the high professional reputation which Sir C. BELL has deservedly attained, most especially as a public teacher; but all applications for any individual excepting Mr. LISTON, whose eminence as a surgeon is universally acknowledged, were entirely disregarded, and as soon as it was ascertained, by reference to Mr. LISTON, who has lately settled in the metropolis, that he would not forego his prospects in London for any of the medical chairs in the University of Edinburgh, the members of the Edinburgh Council resolved, painful as it was to the feelings of some of them, not to pay the slightest attention to the private solicitation of friends, but at once to elect Sir CHARLES BELL, as by far the fittest individual who was willing to accept the situation, and thus to uphold the fame of the first medical school in Europe.”

Had Mr. LISTON accepted the invitation of his countrymen to return to Edinburgh, and taken the Chair of Surgery, he would have acted, we think, most injudiciously. Within the short space of time that he has already resided in the Metropolis, Mr. LISTON has succeeded in establishing here a reputation equally well founded with that which he had previously acquired by the exercise of his scientific attainments in Edinburgh. If he could have been induced to quit the Metropolis by the offer of his

friends in the Scottish capital, the students of the University Hospital would have incurred an irreparable loss by his secession from that establishment.

INTERCEPTED LETTER.

"DEAR DOCTOR MACMICHAEL, — I am determined to print my last oration, as all my friends tell me that the Latinity of it is elegant, and that the whole is in good classical taste. Perhaps your friend MURRAY would publish it as a shilling pamphlet, illuminated with a view of Pall-Mall-East, as a frontispiece. I will undertake to sustain all losses in case he should fear to print it as a bookseller's speculation. It may give our sacred cause a lift, and we ought not to throw away a chance in these hours of convulsion and alarm. It will also promote our interests to get it reviewed, a duty which you can desire FERGUSSON to perform in the *Quarterly*, but pray caution him not to use so much fulsome language—or what people of good taste call *flummery*—as he did in the review of my former orations. I require no puffing. My classical acquirements are universally acknowledged. I desire him to write nothing laudatory of them, but to confine his critique to the scientific and high moral feelings which abound in the oration.

"I have received a most interesting, but, I lament to add, a most painful and vexatious communication from my correspondent in Downing-street, and although at this early period I would not have the fact whispered, yet I tell you that the bubble, as the radicals call it, must soon burst, and therefore let us hope that by early information on what the Government is contemplating, we may make at least some effort to parry the blow which awaits our ancient and venerable institution. It appears that the 'Central Board,' the very name of which is sickening, and about which we heard so much during the Parliamentary inquiry, is contemplated to be formed in right earnest, the Government having determined, to the joy I suppose of all the liberals and radicals, to form such a Board, under the auspices of a Metropolitan University. This university is to comprise a body of Examiners, to be selected from all grades of the profession, except the teachers of the different schools, the Examiners of our own College, and, of course, the Council of Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and it is intended that this enlightened body shall have the power of conferring degrees (following singularly enough the example of *our* College), on all those who can exhibit competent medical knowledge, no matter whence it has been obtained. It is impossible to glance at the

establishment of such an University without horror. It strikes at the very foundation of our vested rights, and will wipe away, like a sponge, the whole of the certificate system, under which our esteemed friends have so greatly benefited. It will destroy all the exclusive advantages and privileges which our recognised schools and hospitals have so long possessed, and it must inevitably destroy those rational sources of income and emolument which are derived by all our present Colleges and Corporations, from the trade in degrees and diplomas, as no one can now be expected to disburse those large sums which we all demand for collegiate documents.

"You, my dear friend, are perfectly aware of the great difficulties into which we have lately been plunged in consequence of scarcely an individual having applied for a license from our College during the last two years, and if our funds are so bad now, what will they be by-and-by? This metropolitan university will be no less fatal also to our friends in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields and Bridge-street, Blackfriars, as those to whom they grant diplomas and licenses will of course be freed by the Government from having anything more to do with the College and Hall corporations. In fact, the game seems to be altogether up, and what to do and what to say I know not. It is, indeed, most mortifying to me that I have never been consulted by any member of the Government in their various arrangements, as I might, by some means or other, have caused delay, even if I could not have got some important alterations made in the plan. I now see the misfortune of having tampered with Sir ROBERT PEEL and my Tory friends, during their short reign, for I suspect that the present men doubt my sincerity, and avoid asking my counsel.

"Much as I may regret it on account of my health, I must come to London at the latter end of the month. I will then make the necessary arrangements for getting up the evening recreations at Pall-Mall-East, to accomplish which, however, I see many and serious difficulties. I must also call the attention of the Fellows to the sinews of war, a matter fraught with anxieties, as there have been so few monies received for licenses lately. The College building is already so heavily mortgaged, that it will require a much deeper financier than myself to keep the machine in motion.

"King's College claims at this moment, as it has ever done, my earnest solicitude, more especially as my dear nephew's fate in life has been embarked in that school. By-the-by, I should be glad if you could devise some mode by which it could be made generally known that the vacated chair was not *his* chair, but that of Dr. Bissett HAWKINS, his cousin, also a Fellow of our College. I am naturally most anxious that