

UNIVERSITY REFORM

BY A TEACHER.



“Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie,
“Which we ascribe to heaven : the fated sky
“Gives us free scope; only doth backward pull
“Our slow designs, when we ourselves are dull.”

SHAKSPEARE.



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“The mass of men, simply because they are a mass of men, receive with difficulty every new idea, unless it lies in the track of their own knowledge; and this opposition, which every new idea must vanquish, becomes tenfold greater when the idea is promulgated from a source not in itself authoritative.”

LEWES' LIFE OF GOETHE.

“It is the duty of scholars and philosophers not to shrink from holding and expressing what men of the world call quixotic opinions; for, if I read the history of the world rightly, the victory of reason over unreason, and the whole progress of our race, have generally been achieved by such fools as ourselves “rushing in where angels fear to tread,” till after a time the track becomes beaten, and even angels are no longer afraid.”

MAX MÜLLER.

To

W. WORDSWORTH, Esquire, B. A., C. I. E., LL. D.,

Retired Principal of Elphinstone College,

and

Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University ;

and

The Hon'ble Mr. JUSTICE RANADE, M. A., LL. B., C. I. E.,

Judge, High Court, Bombay,

THIS PAPER IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

In appreciation of their services to the cause of

EDUCATION IN WESTERN INDIA,

BY

THEIR GRATEFUL AND AFFECTIONATE PUPIL.

The importance of the bearing of a sound system of education on the right solution of all social and political questions on which depends the well-being of a people has not been sufficiently recognised by the leaders of native thought. The topics that absorb all the public attention are financial, political and social reforms. Hence the ignorance and apathy generally shown for educational problems. The spell of indifference was, however, broken for a time last year by the controversy between Dr. Bhandarkar and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ranade. In this controversy the question of University Reform was made unnecessarily to depend upon the answer to the question whether or not the university strain was responsible for the heavy death-rate among the graduates. The question of University Reform deserves public attention irrespective of the question of mental strain; and I drew public attention to this last year in the columns of the Gujarat Mitra and gave my reasons for such an opinion.

The articles having attracted the attention of persons interested in University Reform, it was suggested to me that I should draw up my recommendations in the form of a paper. And this paper is the result of that suggestion. Being desirous to correct my own views by the light of the views of other people, I submitted my original articles, with all their imperfections, to several gentlemen, both Native and European—for their opinions and suggestions. The result was encouraging beyond my expectations. I have to thank the Hon'ble Mr. R. M. Sayani, M. A., LL. B., Messrs. N. G. Chandavarker, B. A., LL. B., G. M. Tripathi, B. A., LL. B.,

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I have purposely avoided going into detail of studies for the various examinations, because I hold, with Principal Gajjar, that the subject is vast and requires the co-operation of many specialists. What is omitted in this paper will be found, however, fully treated in Principal Gajjar's able Note on University Reform.

SURAT,
April, 1895.