

Chemistry and botany attracted, between the years 1840 and 1844, from three to seven students; geometry, astronomy, and experimental philosophy, scarcely more; mineralogy and geology, still taught by the same professor who, fifteen years before, had attracted crowded audiences, from ten to twelve; political economy, still fewer; even ancient history and poetry scarcely commanded an audience; and, strange to say, in a country with whose destinies those of India are so closely bound up, the first of Asiatic scholars gave lectures to one or two pupils, and these might have been absent, had not the cherished hope of a Boden scholarship for Sanscrit induced them to attend." I may state, in addition, on the best authority, that the geological professor here referred to, — Dr. Buckland, — not only one of the most eminent masters of his science, but also one of the most popular of its exponents, — lectured, during his last course, to a class of three. Well may it be asked whether the prophecy of Pope is not at length on the eve of fulfilment: —

“ She comes ! she comes ! the sable throne behold,  
Of Night primeval and of Chaos old,  
As, one by one, at dread Medea’s strain,  
The sickening stars fade off the ethereal plain, —  
As Argus’ eyes, by Hermes’ wand oppressed,  
Close one by one in everlasting rest.  
Thus, at her felt approach and secret might,  
Art after art goes out, and all is night.”

The anti-scientific influences of the principle have, however, not been restricted to the cloisters of the university. They have been creeping of late over the surface of English society, as that sulphurous fog into which the arch-fiend in Milton transformed himself when he sought to dash creation into chaos crept of old over the surface of Eden. The singularly