

UNIVERSITY REFORM.

BY REV. DR. W. MILLER.

To one condition of the University doing the very best work it is capable of doing you may allow me to refer in closing. It needs to have the intelligent sympathy and support of the educated public. That may be likened to the rails on which our engine has to run, and I need not tell you that the best engine in the world will be singularly ineffective unless the rails laid down for it be fairly regular and smooth. Here, in Southern India, such support and sympathy can certainly be obtained for a reformed though not for a revolutionized University, provided there be even a moderate amount of judicious prudence on the part of those who endeavour to improve it. From all that I know of you I feel confident in counting on you, the former students of the college, for support to all reforms that are wisely and gradually introduced. In this respect the chief thing I would say to you in this : "be watchful but be open-minded. If changes be proposed which are manifestly purposeless, or changes which though something may be said for them are manifestly premature, by all means use every effort to withstand them. But if changes be proposed by those whom you know to favour the spread of liberal culture and to have the welfare of your countrymen at heart do not rashly set yourselves against them. There was wisdom in the words which Oliver Cromwell addressed at an important crisis to a somewhat opinionated and impracticable section of my own Scottish fellow country-men. "Brethern," so Cromwell wrote to them "Brethern, I beseech you to think it possible that you may be mistaken." To those, if any such there be, who would have everything go on exactly as it has been doing hitherto, who are ready to be unthinking opponents of every new development, and to those also, if such there be, who would make changes simply for the sake of change, I would with the greatest earnestness repeat the words of Cromwell : "I beseech you to think it possible that you may be mistaken."—

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