

were to be awarded to those who distinguished themselves.

It was now evident that the shape in which this new statute was framed would determine what studies should henceforth be encouraged or discouraged in the university. It was clearly pointed out, at the time, that all those subjects which could not lead to academical distinctions would be virtually proscribed ; and that the well-known maxim of our lawyers in the interpretation of statutes would hold good in this case, "De non apparentibus et de non existentibus eadem est ratio." Whatever science was omitted in the list of studies selected for the trial of strength would be henceforth not merely slighted, but virtually blotted out of the academical course. Academical honours were here no empty bubbles, but might be expected to lead to fellowships, tutorships, livings, and other solid advantages. If the Heads of Houses and Members of Convocation had been simply legislating for national objects, and had not been the representatives of private and collegiate interests, which were not always identical with those of the public, it would have been easy to devise a comprehensive system of examinations, consisting of several boards, to which the professors, as well as tutors, would have been appointed, in stricter accordance with the spirit, and even letter, of the old statutes, than the new law which was then enacted. But this might soon have altered entirely the relative position in which the college tutors now stood to the public readers and professors. The latter would soon have acquired greater consequence in convocation ; and had such a measure been proposed by the Hebdomadal Board it would probably have been lost. Ac-