

contributors to the two periodicals which he edited in succession,—the “Mirror” and the “Lounger,”—were also lawyers. And in Edinburgh’s second intellectual group the legal faculty greatly predominated. Scott, Wilson, Lockhart, were all, at least nominally, of the faculty; and the editor of the “Edinburgh Review,” with his most vigorous contributors, were, even when they wrote most largely for its pages, busied with the toils of the bar. Such were the elements of that intellectual greatness of the Scottish capital which gave it so high a place among the cities of the world. How have they now so signally failed to keep up the old supply?

It would of course be as idle to inquire why Edinburgh has at the present time no Scotts, Humes, or Chalmerses, as to inquire why Britain has no Shakspeares, Newtons, or Miltons. Such men always rank among the rarest productions of nature; and centuries elapse in the history of even learned and ingenious nations in which there appear none so large of calibre or so various of faculty. Further, it must be confessed that both the bar and the university have in a very considerable degree come under that law of paroxysm which leaves occasional blank spaces in the production of men of a high class, and the equally obvious law that gives to a highly cultivated age like the present great abundance everywhere of men of mere talent and accomplishment. Aberdeen, Glasgow, and the great second-class towns of England, are all, from this double circumstance of a lack of the highest men and a great abundance of men of the subordinate class, much nearer the level of Edinburgh than they were only a quarter of a century ago, when Scott and Jeffrey might be seen every day in term-time at the Parliament House, and Chalmers, Wilson, and Sir William Hamilton lectured in the University. That change, too, which has passed over the pervading literature of the age, and given a first place to the daily newspaper, and only a second place to