What think you, will the sons of the venerable
sires who founded our University, and who
now have Protestant sons under her tutelage
when, instead of the peaceful doctrine of Chri-
stianity, which have hitherto been promulgated
from her beautiful Chapel consecrated to
Religion, Literature and Science, they shall
hear on the day of Commencement, the omens
thunders of the Vatican reverberating throughout
its aisles? Depend upon it, they will leave you, and
take away their sons. A number of gentlemen
who are now, and still desire to be devoted
friends of the University, requested me to write
to you, and thus ascertain the facts of the case.
Alternating, with tremulous anxiety, between hope
and fear, they are awaiting the result. They
must respectfully request you to reply to some
considerable length, explaining your views
fully and satisfactorily on this most impor-
tant subject. Should Arch-Bishop Hughes
deliver the valedictory sermon to the gradu-
ing class on the day of Commencement, in next June, I
think the entire Protestant influence will drop
from you; and our University, the beloved
"Alma Mater" of us all, like some beautiful
aromatic flower, which in the morning flour-
ished, and grew up; but in the evening
would fade from the earth, on what you once sowed in
the same. But your friends
have yet full confidence in you; for they feel
assured that you yourself are a Protestant;
and that you have no views to conceal on
this vital question; but will firmly meet the
crisis, should it come.
And I feel the more encouraged to make
this appeal to you now because when, in April
1854, having read a statement in one of the Raleigh
newspapers that Arch-Bishop Hughes had been
elected to deliver the valedictory sermon before
the graduating class, you, promptly, with great
civility and kindness, answered my letter, informing