

NOTES ON EDUCATIONAL TOPICS.

Towards the close of last session of the Ontario Legislature a motion introduced by the Minister of Education to expend \$30,000 on enlarging Upper Canada College was withdrawn after a spirited debate, in which members of both political parties joined in opposing the motion. It was stated by those opposed to the grant that the College is not doing anything more than High School work, that it is in fact merely a Collegiate Institute for Toronto, and that Toronto should contribute towards its support. It was also pointed out that the course of study prescribed for Collegiate Institutes and High Schools is now more extensive than that for Upper Canada College. The High School Course includes not only the work for Junior Matriculation, but also that for first year or Senior Matriculation.

The statement put forward by the defenders of this School that its aims and operations are distinctively provincial in their character, applies with greater force to some of the Collegiate Institutes and High Schools: the latter educate not only 2nd and 3rd class teachers, but also 1st class teachers—a work once monopolized by the Normal Schools, and is surely provincial. Nor can Upper Canada College claim support exclusively from the Provincial Treasury on the grounds that it trains a larger number of candidates for the learned professions than other schools: several of the Collegiate Institutes have sent annually as large a number of students to the preliminary professional examinations—Law, Medicine and Engineering—as Upper Canada College has sent. The large number of pupils in attendance from different parts of the Province has been advanced as an argument in favor of the continuance of the school on its pres-

ent footing; the number of boys from all parts of the Dominion attending its classes has been referred to as an indication that the country demanded such a school, and that it should be supported by the Province. It is perhaps not generally known, but it is nevertheless true, that there are at least five Collegiate Institutes in the Province, each of which has as large a non-resident attendance of pupils doing High School work as Upper Canada College has; and for several years past the former have taken the leading places at all University Examinations.

“There is one common practice of the public schools which ought to be abolished at once and everywhere without question or parley. That is the practice of imprisoning children in the school-houses beyond the school hours. Pretty nearly every school-house in the land is thus turned into a penitentiary in which children are immured every day, some of them for imperfect recitations, others for faults of deportment. This method of punishment, might if the teachers were all judicious, be resorted to occasionally with good effect: but teachers are not all judicious, and thousands of children are thus detained every day to whom the detention is a serious injury and a grave injustice. For some trifling breach of order, like turning in the seat or dropping a pencil—for some small failure in a recitation, and often for no fault at all—whole classes being kept on account of the indolence of some of their members, and the innocent thus suffering with the guilty—the children are shut up in the school-houses, sometimes during the intermissions, often after the close of school. Thousands of children of delicate health, to whom the regular school hours are too