

[Written for the Maple Leaf.]

EDUCATION IN CANADA.



WITH the good sense which distinguishes the inhabitants of this country, a stranger would not discover very decided literary tendencies, except in certain directions. There are many intelligent minds among us, but the mass of the population are too practical to spend much time in theoretical knowledge. The merchant is so immersed in his sales, that one hardly hears from him on any other subject, excepting, perhaps, in the winter, then, if he discusses any sci-

entific subject, or metaphysical truth, the listener wonders where he has found time to reason so well.

Public attention is waking up to the fact, that as a people we need much intellectual quickening, and of late years a marked advance has been made in the facilities for popular improvement. Libraries and reading-rooms are more frequented, and sober tradesmen and mechanics are availing themselves of these means, to elevate their minds, and brighten the tedium of toil.

There is a thoughtful class of people in the community, whose reading is confined to a certain range of works—the daily papers, from which they glean their general information, with very indefinite ideas as to localities, and their Sunday reading. These are staunch supporters of the Bible, and good citizens; but they are slow to follow in the march of improvement, slow to adopt the enlightened ways and means to forward truth which the present grand era of light and knowledge calls for, and which superior education would induce them to put forth.

True, *there are* men full of business cares, who find time to