

## CO-EDUCATION.

But, as I have already said, this question of Higher Education and that of Co-education are essentially different. Nay, more, while I have thus far objected to the admission of lady students to University College as a radical change in its constitution, and an experiment of doubtful issue, so far as its present students are concerned: I have opposed it even more confidently in the true interest of women. I am strongly convinced of the justice of President Eliot's remark:—"It is certain that as our country advances in wealth and refinement the method of educating together young men and young women of 18 to 22 years of age, as it exists to-day in the new communities of our Western States, will be less and less in favour with the people who can afford to give their children collegiate education. Even now the method finds no acceptance in New England, with the most insignificant exceptions. For the Collegiate education of the two sexes together there is but one respectable argument, namely, Poverty!" If the remarks of various speakers have been correctly reported, not a few of the members of the Legislature of Ontario concurred with yourself in acknowledging that, apart from this question of economy or "poverty," they would much prefer to any scheme of co-education, such provision for the lady students of Ontario as that of Newnham Hall, Cambridge. The same is the avowed opinion of many whose names have been incorrectly quoted as advocates of co-education, such as Principal Nelles, Principal Austin, Professor Young, &c. Principal Dawson, of Montreal, is even more decided in his disapproval of co-education, except where poverty leaves no other alternative.

A great array of evidence is nevertheless adduced from the practise in vogue in many Colleges in the United States; but careful study and enquiry lead me to doubt the value of their example as a guide for Ontario. Alike from personal knowledge and from trustworthy report I am satisfied that their standard of education, and the system pursued in many of the Western Colleges, preclude the idea of any profitable appeal to their example. But Cornell is adduced; and the evidence of President White is