

THE CANADA

EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY

AND SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

APRIL, 1887.

STATE AID TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

BY THE VERY REV. PRINCIPAL GRANT, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON.

SOME years ago Toronto University announced through the Vice-Chancellor that its revenue was inadequate for its needs, and that it was about to demand more money from the Legislature that had already given it what used to be called "a magnificent endowment." The proposal seemed startling to those who had been contributing freely for years to the maintenance of universities doing precisely the same kind of work as Toronto, and in some directions certainly doing it better. They were willing that Toronto should have the advantage, in buildings and revenue, of an endowment, worth—in spite of the greatest mismanagement—nearly two millions, but that the Province should go on, indefinitely, doing its utmost to supplant private liberality, when it had been proved that one university was not enough for the needs of the country, seemed to them indefensible. What made the proposal all the more indefensible was that they could not shut their eyes to

the fact that the success of the other universities was the real motive of the new demand on the State. They were told that those institutions were actually "creeping up" to an equality of equipment with the one for which the State did everything. Such "levelling up," not at the public cost, but through private liberality, was an impertinence. The only way to put it down, and to maintain a due distance between the rightful heir and intruders was by getting another million or so from the Legislature for the one that stood on its dignity and did nothing for itself. This method of putting things right had everything to recommend it. No self-sacrifice was called for, except that which Artemus Ward declared himself willing to practise cheerfully. It would besides establish a precedent that would smooth away all future difficulties. Should any other university presume to go on developing, it would be easy to call for another million taken impartially from the pockets of the people, in