

of the famous Kensington Art School. This is a sufficient guarantee of his thorough knowledge of the subject, while his experience as a teacher in this country will have given him the requisite knowledge of the requirements of teachers in Ontario schools. This course of lessons will extend over about three months, and commencing with Elementary principles, will carry the inexperienced teacher over the ground necessary to enable him to prepare pupils successfully for at least the High School Entrance Examinations next December. In addition to the gradual development of the subject in the simplest and most approved style, Mr. Burns will be glad to answer any questions by correspondents, and to give any explanations that may be needed, in order to help those to whom the study is new to understand the principles involved, or master practical difficulties as they may arise. We expect also to furnish subscribers to THE JOURNAL, from time to time, with valuable papers on the subject of Drawing by other well-known teachers.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

The pointed and emphatic resolutions adopted by the High School Masters' section of the recent convention will, it may be hoped, have their legitimate weight with the Minister of Education, the Government and the Legislature. The statements made in the resolutions are not the outcome of professional prejudice, nor even mere matters of opinion, but hard, indisputable facts. They show beyond all controversy that whatever reasons may have existed in the past, before the development of our efficient High School system, for the maintenance of such a school at the public expense, those reasons exist no longer. It is therefore simply an inexcusable waste of the public funds to continue to lavish on one High School, with no valid claim to superiority in any respect, an income which is probably equal to that of many—we may show how many in a subsequent number—of the city and county Collegiate Institutes, and which is urgently needed for other purposes of higher education.

If no effective defense of the College was made in the course of the debate, it was simply because no such defense is possible. The few speakers who essayed to say something in favour of its continuance were certainly not wanting in ability, and, given a better case, would not have failed to produce some telling arguments.

The fact that Upper Canada College has always a goodly number of pupils in training, may and probably does prove the need of another High School or Collegiate Institute for the accommodation of the western part of the city. It certainly utterly fails to prove that the perpetuation of Upper Canada College, is not both an injustice to Ontario tax-payers and an anomaly in our public school system.

Much stress is often laid by the few supporters of the College, upon the need of such an institution as it is claimed to be, to impart a higher class social and moral training, and to perpetuate the influences and traditions of the Rugbians and Etons of the old country. From this point of view, we are told, Upper Canada College is a school not for the city but for the

whole province, and the only one of the kind to which parents can send their children with confidence that their manners and morals will be cultivated as carefully as their intellects. In this respect it is claimed, this time-honoured institution, with its residence, affords great advantages and safeguards which are sadly wanting in connection with the High Schools, which make no provision for such residence and supervision.

The training and influences indicated are, we heartily concede, of the very highest importance. Every parent who has the true interests of his children at heart will regard them as the first and most important of all considerations. But for this very reason he will refuse to make the state—represented as in this case, by a partisan minister to whom, as a member of a cabinet, political considerations will generally outweigh most others, the guardian of his child's moral well-being. Most thoughtful parents regard moral and religious culture as indissolubly connected. They are convinced that religion is the only sure and safe basis of morality. But in this country religious instruction has long since been, happily, taken out of the hands of the State. The latter is forbidden to lay its profane hand upon any part of the sacred ark. This is as it should be. The State has nothing to do with the social, moral or religious training of the young. This is a business too high for it and no parent, who rightly realizes his obligations will entrust so solemn a duty to political hands. The parent who sends his child from home for his education is bound to see that he is placed under the best influences and restrictions attainable. Hence it is that colleges of residence, supported on the true voluntary principle, and managed by Christian men bound to place the pupils under the best moral and religious influences, are multiplying and will continue to multiply. Surely those parents, generally wealthy, who are in the habit of patronizing Upper Canada College, do not require exceptional treatment. If no voluntary institution exists in the country which meets their views and in which they have confidence, let them put their hands in their pockets and found one. They may thus confer a boon at the same time upon their children and their country.

If the defenders of Upper Canada College as a provincial institution upon the grounds indicated should be disposed to reiterate the argument, they might be met on other grounds. The question might be brought down to the level of hard fact. Does any reasonable man believe that the Education Department, in the recent appointment for instance, is guided solely, or even chiefly, by regard to this special feature of the character of the institution. The matter is a delicate one to touch, but we may surely, without offense or odious insinuation ask the general question. There are, it is well known, many amongst the prominent educators in Ontario, who are men of high purpose and proved moral power, men who have shown themselves capable of moulding youthful character, imparting lofty impulses and stimulating to high endeavours. To what extent has the Education Department in recent appointments, been guided by such considerations as that of proved moral power in the educator. We frankly put the question and leave it to be answered by those who think the continuance of Upper Canada College defensible upon the grounds indicated.