

much experience in the practical work of education in this Province. He has been a Public School Teacher, a Public School Inspector, a member of the Central Committee, and a Model School Inspector. He is therefore not a novice in Public School matters. He has declared, with perhaps unconscious satire, his determination to know no politics in the administration of his department. From the experience of the past we have but little sympathy with the system of a Ministry of Education, but perhaps Mr. Ross will be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of everybody that such a system is the only right way.

If he will bear with a word of advice from us, he will take pains to surround himself with a representative body of advisers, men of probity and experience, and will put far from him men who have private ends to gain, and whose course in the past gives no promise of good for the future. But whether party politics be allowed to obscure his vision and warp his judgment, the result of his elevation to office will be that every aspiring teacher and inspector with Mr. Ross's shining example before him will become a furious politician. He will not fail to see in his School Register a Minister's Portfolio.

STUDENTS' TEMPERANCE LEAGUE

WE chronicle with gratification the formation of a Temperance League among the undergraduates of University College. The new organization already displays considerable vigour. At its first public meeting, recently held in Moss Hall, it was announced that eighty-seven names had been subscribed to the "total abstinence," and twenty-four to the "moderation" pledge. The League is likely to command the sympathies of an increasing number of the undergraduates, and to exercise a powerful influence. There are no more desirable recruits to the temperance ranks than young men of liberal education, who are to be the future leaders in the higher walks of life. The temperance reformation has always recognized the necessity of laying hold upon youth. Fifty years' experience but emphasizes the importance, for their own sakes, of so doing. Dr. Geikie said very pertinently at the meeting above referred to:

"The less you drink, the clearer your head, the stronger your frame, the bigger your arm, the better your stomach, and the longer your lives." The extreme difficulty of eradicating a taste for intoxicants, firmly established by years of indulgence, has been proved in thousands of lamentable instances. Even where apparently completely destroyed, in nine cases out of ten it asserts, and successfully asserts, its former mastery. Prevention is the surest remedy. Young men who begin and continue as abstainers are secured against shipwreck from drunkenness. One cannot say as much for those who indulge in the habitual use of alcoholic stimulants, however moderately. Dr. Cuyler, of Brooklyn, said the other day: "No small part of my life has been spent in bootless efforts to save those who were in the swift and dangerous current. The remainder of it shall be spent in endeavouring to prevent young men from embarking on the stream."

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

IT is very gratifying to learn that the efforts of Mr. W. H. Howland and several other prominent gentlemen in the city of Toronto to give roundness and completeness to our school system by establishing Industrial Schools are likely to meet with success. These gentlemen have seen with much regret that throughout the Province many boys come before the police court—in the city of Toronto in 1882 nearly 500—and that unless some constant and systematic effort be made to reclaim them large numbers will annually be added to the criminal classes. They have felt that it is extremely undesirable that young offenders should be compelled to associate in jails and reformatories with older and more vicious offenders, and that honest work combined with literary training at some handicraft would be most helpful in restraining them or reclaiming them from evil courses. Accordingly these benevolent persons have obtained incorporate powers, and secured a lease of nearly 100 acres of land from the City Council, and grants from the Government and City Council to the amount of \$9,000, and they propose to raise by voluntary subscription \$10,000 more so as to give