

## HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

## UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

It has been announced semi-officially that the Government intend to make radical changes in the character of Upper Canada College. What the exact nature of these changes is, has not been intimated; but we believe that it is proposed to bring it under the operation of our High School regulations. So far as this goes, it is undoubtedly a move in the right direction. But if Mr. Crooks proposes to leave the endowment intact—to virtually give the College \$27,000 a year, while the best of our Collegiate Institutes receive only a tenth of this amount—he will find out that a pressure can be brought to bear on Parliamentarians and the Press that will surprise him. The feeling over Ontario is that the College should be abolished, and the Government will soon see that in a question like this the party whip will prove useless. If Mr. Crooks intends to constitute Upper Canada College a Collegiate Institute with the large endowment it now possesses, the High School Masters of the Province should understand at once that *the Minister of Education, to whom they are justified in looking for support and consideration, proposes to maintain another Collegiate Institute in Toronto with the deliberate intention of robbing them of their pupils.* Were we possessed of the financial advantages of this famed institution, we should have no reason to fear the result; but when the mere addition to the income of a High School, of \$750, has done so much, it is easy to see how heavily handicapped we shall be in the coming race. The Province does not ask for—does not need—this institution. Its High Schools and Collegiate Institutes are able to do, and are actually doing, the work Upper Canada College is designed to do, at a cost greatly inferior to that of the College. But it is useless to argue the matter. The supporters of Upper Canada College

have not a leg to stand on. They dare not come out with the true reason for their desire to perpetuate the College—to maintain a school where a Canadian shoddy aristocratic sentiment may be systematically inculcated.

Mr. Crooks has not found his position hitherto a bed of roses. If he persists in the intention expressed in his Report, his past troubles will not be a circumstance to those to come. In a sense, we do not regret his action. It paves the way for the extinction of the College, by putting the whole case in a nut-shell. If the College does well at the approaching matriculation examination, it may gasp a while longer; if it fails then comes the deluge.

While, however, we condemn the continuation of the College system, we cannot approve of the treatment that is said to be in store for some of the Masters. Cut down the salaries, by all means. They have been ridiculously out of proportion to the value of the services rendered; but let economy and justice go hand in hand. If we are not misinformed, three of the oldest Masters are to be dismissed, because—well!—apparently because they are getting old. What an example this is for High School Boards! What a prospect this for the High School Master! At the pace we keep, we cannot hope to last more than ten or fifteen years, and then comes retirement—enforced—it may be with nothing. The system hitherto in vogue in the College has been to pension the superannuated teachers. One retired a few months ago on this condition, but Messrs. Brown, Wedd and Thompson are to be allowed merely a gratuity amounting to two years' salary. Better wipe out the College, pension the deserving Masters, and hand over the rest of the endowment to the University of Toronto. There is such a thing as vested interests, and we must say that these men are being unfairly dealt with.