

scholarship after scholarship. We do not produce these facts for the purpose of making invidious comparisons, for, no doubt, the work of tuition is carefully attended to at University College. What we do wish, however, to impress upon the members of the Senate is, that the Collegiate Institutes are able and willing to undertake the First Year work in Arts. At present we hear a good deal of complaint about the straitened condition of the University finances, and there can be no doubt that University College suffers from chronic impecuniosity. If the University were to drop the First Year work, a good many of its troubles would disappear, and the professors of University College would, no doubt, look upon the change with feelings of satisfaction; for this plan would relieve them of the most irksome portion of their duties, and give them greatly increased opportunities for teaching the higher work of the other years. There can be no doubt either that the masters of our enterprising and progressive schools would willingly continue the relegated work. As matters now stand they must take it up for the benefit of comparatively few. The change proposed would entail no extra expense on such schools, and it would be productive of great relief to the University. Besides, no better scheme could be devised for elevating the standard of education generally. The advantages of a higher education would in this way be more widely disseminated; for many whose studies now end with the junior matriculation examination, would proceed to the end of the first year. Is there such a thing as over-education? For a time men with a university education may deem themselves above certain occupations in life; but this is only a temporary evil. It is sure to right itself.

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENTS.

MOST readers of the MONTHLY will not require to be reminded by the Convocation Addresses, to be found elsewhere in the present number, that the period of College Commencements is upon us. The prize lists will have already been too well

scanned to note the progress of old pupils to need reminder from us of one of the great educational events of the year. How it has fared with those whose feet have been set on the steep ascents of learning, cannot but be a matter of solicitude to the masters from whom they have passed, and whose preparatory work, whether now recognized by the student or not, must have no little moulding influence on their after-career. Much, of course, will still depend on the character of the work done at college, on the ambitions aroused, on the latent powers called into action, as well as on the thoroughness and the fervour of the academic training. In this latter respect, it is not always the best equipped college, or the wealthiest endowment, that will do most for the young collegian, but the amount of enthusiasm and mental vigour thrown into the class-room work, the comprehensiveness and modern thoroughness of the subjects taught, and that happy combination of pumping in and drawing out force, on the part of the professors, that marks the highest teaching aptitude, and has the most inspiring effect on those taught. In Ontario, we are yet a long way from University Consolidation, though, if the agitation be well-founded that has sprung up against such an institution as the Johns-Hopkins University, which is charged with raising its standard so high that only the few can be educated, and not the many, then a great National University, or the centralization of a number of colleges with an Arts course for all, is not wholly to be desired. But on the other hand, we are in some danger of forgetting that we are as yet a sparse and poor people; and the multiplication of colleges, especially of denominational institutions scattered over the Province, with their necessarily limited Arts departments, is not the act of the highest wisdom, however ardently denominational pride makes effort to sustain them. That they are sustained, and pluckily sustained, is of course to their credit; and rivalry here is perhaps seen in its fairest guise. Could the Utopian dream be realized of a fusion of the sects, as we have seen and are seeing the union of the various bodies of more than one denomination, then University Consolidation