

## UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

We have no idea that the country will be satisfied to allow Upper Canada College to remain a mere High School, even under the management of Mr. Buchan. The country did not complain about the management of the Institution, but that provincial funds are so largely used in maintaining a school to do High School work mainly for Toronto alone. The question will undoubtedly be raised, and unless Mr. Crooks can establish for the College a function which will be clearly provincial in its character, there seems to be only one solution for it.

## DEPOSITORY INVESTIGATIONS.

For years there have been floating rumors to the effect that a prominent employe in the Education Department has been reaping rich harvests from various fields in connection with the Depository. The most directly productive of these are supposed to have been the map and apparatus departments, although it has been stated over and over again that contractors and book publishers in Canada and elsewhere have been laid under tribute to add to the temporal welfare of the notable official. These rumors may be false slanders, and if they are the party against whom they are directed would have much to gain by a full investigation. We are surprised that he has not demanded an exhaustive enquiry long ago.

It is no secret that towards the close of last session an influential deputation of the reform members of the Legislature waited upon Mr. Crooks in reference to the matter, and that he promised to appoint a Commissioner to investigate the charges made. These charges have been formally made to the Minister of Education by an employe in the Department, whose services have since been dispensed with, but the investigation has not been held. This unpleasant question should be settled, and covering it up temporarily will not settle it.

## A LACK IN OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

Why should not Public Night Schools be recognized and supported by the Government as well as Public Day Schools? This question is one which forces itself upon those who wish to make State education as perfect as it should be, as perfect as those who support it have a right to expect it to be. We have become so accustomed to associate the name "Public" with the schools conducted during the day, that most people regard the night school as an excrescence, and treat it as a specialty. We hold that the night school is to a large portion of the population of any country as much a necessity as the day school, and that in both as being for the public, and maintained by the public, it has as good a claim to the name "Public" as the day school has.

Many children are unavoidably neglected in their early years, notwithstanding all attempts to secure for them their right to education by compulsory school laws, and by Industrial Schools, where they have been established. The poverty, the wickedness, or the death of their parents may have prevented their attendance at school in early years, and we claim for them the right to receive when older, that which is justly theirs, but which circumstances forced them to lose, when they were young.

There is another class of young people who would be greatly benefited by attending night schools. The School Law exercises no compulsion beyond the age of twelve, and many parents take their children from school very soon after they reach that age. It is perfectly clear that they cannot have received a very sound education in so short a time, and facilities should be afforded them for rendering more complete the training begun while attending day schools. In addition to those two classes, there are very many who did not realize the value of learning while at school, and who through their own carelessness failed to secure sufficient education. They learn on entering upon the struggles of life, how deficient they are in power to rise, and are often most anxious to atone for neglect, and to make up as far as possible for opportunities lost. Their claim may not be so strong as that of those belonging to the other two classes, but *their country as well as they, would reap benefit from their more thorough training.*

It may be said that the School Law in Ontario gives trustees the right to establish night schools. True, but when established they are entitled to recognition, which they do not receive from the Government. We do not claim that in all places School Boards should be compelled to open night schools, as they are to conduct day schools, but we urge the Minister of Education to give a grant to aid those Boards which do conduct night schools. Let them be recognized as a part of the Public School system, and as such let them receive aid on the same basis as schools taught during the day.

It may be argued that night schools can only be conducted in cities and towns, and that it would be unfair to tax the whole country for their support. They might, however, very profitably be opened in villages and even country school-houses. Four or five might be opened in a township, regardless of section boundaries and managed by a Township Board. They would be of immense service to young people in country places, many of whom have comparatively little to do during the winter months. The fact that a peripatetic "writing master" can get a fair attendance almost anywhere in a country district, shows that the sons and daughters of farmers are as fully alive to the necessity for improvement as are the young people in cities and towns.

The fact that in many places the night schools have been only partially successful, does not prove them to be unnecessary, but shows how much they need to be improved and systematized. It does not lead to the conclusion, that it would be wrong to give them Departmental recognition and Government support, but proves that they need such recognition and support in order to a vigorous growth. Let them become a part of the regular School system, let them have the same inspection as the day schools, let them be taught by able teachers, and let them have a carefully selected, partially optional, course of study, and they will not be as irregular and as unsatisfactory as they too often are now.

In several of the cities and towns, and in many country sections, evening schools are conducted now, but they would be better, and others would be opened in many other places, if the