

ronto University does not move in the matter, and the other institutions hesitate to take the initiative, though all admit the desirability and importance of some such step—let a joint committee be appointed, made up of representatives from the various Universities. This committee to mature a scheme to be submitted to the Legislature. It will then only remain for the government of the day to take up the question where it was left,

when, in 1869, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Blake, was passed almost unanimously: This House is prepared to give its best consideration to any scheme which may be laid before it for the improvement of superior education, and for the establishment and maintenance, through the Provincial University, of a uniform and elevated standard of education.

THE EFFECT OF EXAMINATIONS ON SCHOOL CULTURE.

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NO one conversant with Canadian Educational Institutions and their system of instruction can, we think, read the observations of Dr. Wiese in his "German Letters on English Education," especially the letter on "Examinations in Universities and Schools," without feeling that many of his strictures on the system of examinations as pursued there, apply in equal, if not greater measure, to the system pursued here.

The writer, whose letters, by the way, bear evidence on every page, that he knows thoroughly what he is writing about, points out how, that for want of an administrative head with ability to devise, and with sufficient authority to enforce, a uniform and systematic plan of action in the working of the middle-class and great public schools of England, confusion of purpose, dissipation of teaching force, aimlessness of effort, and consequent inadequacy of result characterized the working of these schools till within a few years. That

then, because the local examinations conducted by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the examinations conducted by the Society of Arts and by the College of Preceptors, since they supplied Masters with something definite to aim at in the preparation of their pupils, offered in some measure an escape from the previous chaotic state of things, a mania for examinations seized upon the teachers and people of England generally.

The writer referred to regards this mania as a reaction from the former confusion, but on that account none the less a mania. "From time to time," he says, "something like an alarm-bell sounds throughout the country, 'Come and be examined!' and they come, boys and girls, young and old, having crammed into themselves as much knowledge as they could." He quotes, also, the words of a young Hindoo, for some time his travelling companion, and who had been educated in the English