

THE CANADA
EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY
AND SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1886.

THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF PRECEPTORS.*

BY GEORGE DICKSON, M.A., PRINCIPAL UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.

[Special Revision for MONTHLY.]

THE consideration of the question of a grand union of all teachers of the Province into one Society, possessing the power of admitting members and of enacting by-laws for the regulation of all matters concerning the teaching profession, is now introduced for your consideration under the title of a "College of Preceptors." The designation of the proposed Union may first claim our notice; and on this point it may be said that as there is in Ontario a Law Society, and Societies formed among the other professions of the Province, each conserving and advancing its own special interests, the title of "The College of Preceptors for Ontario" will, perhaps, be appropriate, considering the objects we have in view. Some suggested the title, an "Education Society" for our pro-

jected union; the aptness of the former, and the vagueness of the latter, are obvious, and will, doubtless, decide the matter as to the name by which the union shall be known. As an art, education is very old; old, I presume, as the human race; but as a science it is among the last born, scarcely yet named in the English language; and although it concerns itself with every other science, and is surpassed by none in its promise of ever-widening benefit to mankind, the followers of the art scarcely take rank as a recognized profession. The State in its desire to provide an education for youth takes charge of the teacher as well as of the school. His position is that of a sort of civil servant, "cribbed and confined" by regulations and by-laws; bound to serve, not one, but many masters; scarcely consulted in matters pertaining to his work; his part is to carry out a

* A Paper read before the Ontario Teachers' Association, at Toronto, on the 11th of August, 1886.