

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The closing exercises of the University of Queen's College, Kingston, have been, this year, more than usually interesting. The College has evidently started fairly upon a new stage of its career, and all who are interested in the work of higher education will bid her "God speed." The retirement of Dr. Williamson from the important position he has filled since the establishment of the institution means the loss to the College of his learning and experience, but it will at the same time afford the management an excellent chance of filling his place with a thoroughly vigorous man. Prof. Fletcher, who has just concluded his first session's work, was a decided acquisition, and it is to be hoped that the College will be equally fortunate in the new incumbent when they get a successor to Dr. Williamson. One incident cannot fail to attract the attention of every reader of the account we publish of the proceedings, that is, the public appearance of a young lady to receive a prize which she had won after keen competition with members of the sterner sex. Queen's has freely thrown open her doors to the ladies, and she will not lose anything by doing so. Other colleges will soon find themselves constrained to follow her example. Principal Grant's address, racy and almost audacious, was thoroughly characteristic of the man. After reading the published reports of it one need wonder no longer at the influence for good he exerts over the students who come in contact with him. Queen's, like other colleges, has her financial difficulties, but few other colleges are so fortunate in having at their heads men of such mental and physical energy as Principal Grant. If a way out of her difficulties is possible for Queen's he will soon find it.

GEOGRAPHY IN SCHOOLS.

Owing to frequent changes in the political condition of some countries, and to additions made from time to time to our knowledge of the physical features of others, the teacher is apt to find himself at a loss when he is required to go into details with his pupils. No country gives so much trouble in this respect as the one of which our knowledge should be most minute and accurate—the Dominion of Canada. We propose, therefore, to place before our readers from time to time geographical information collected from the most recent and most trustworthy sources, by way of supplement to what is contained in the ordinary text books on geography. Much of what appears in our notes on the subject will be accessible in the newspaper press, but it very often appears there subject to corrections afterwards made, and at all events it will, we trust, be found convenient to have the facts put in as compendious and systematic a form as possible. We commence this month with a few facts relating to the route and present condition of the most interesting and important of our great public works, the Canada Pacific Railway, the information given being gathered entirely from official documents and from the statement made recently in Parliament by the Minister of Railways and Canals.

GEORGE PAXTON YOUNG, LL.D.

In doing honour to Professor Young Queen's College has done honour to herself, for he is one of those men—as rare in the field of education as in that of statesmanship—who confer distinction on titles of honour. He has attained to the very foremost rank of Canadian scholars by dint of his own ardent pursuit of learning rather than as the result of early training, for his collegiate course in Scotland was not marked by any extraordinary pre-eminence. For ten years he has been lecturing to crowded classes in University College on Mental and Moral Philosophy with distinguished success, and for the same length of time he has filled the important position of Chairman of the Central Committee of the Education Department of Ontario with great advantage to the cause of education. As a thinker he is original and profound; as a teacher he is lucid in his expositions and enthusiastic in his work; as a man he is singularly free from those faults of manner and temperament which so frequently prevent otherwise great men from being fully appreciated. It will be the earnest hope of all who know him that Dr. Young may long continue to fill the double sphere of practical usefulness he has filled for a decade past, and to reflect increasing honour on one College by wearing its degree, and on another by taking an important part in the training of its students.

TEACHING TEMPERANCE IN SCHOOL.

As the desirability of having temperance taught in Public Schools has been recognized by the Minister of Education, the following quotation from Dr. Richardson's address to teachers on the subject, in Exeter Hall, will be of interest:—

"We will tell the truth on this subject, and we will teach it; but if there is a class of the community that can tell this truth most forcibly, a class upon whom this duty devolves more than upon all others together, it is the school-master and school-mistress class. They hold the keys of this mystery of infamy. They are the teachers of the millions that are to be. Upon their act and word may hereafter depend everything that may eventuate in the life of an individual. I want to urge you who are not already engaged in our cause to make it yours, and in yourselves to implant the lessons of complete temperance, absolute temperance, absolute abstinence from the cause of this evil. Nothing else will do, or carry force. You must cut off this evil thing and show its uselessness and injury. Then as to the way in which you should proceed. I do not think it is of much service to begin with the youngest children. Their little minds are best let alone, and the same may often be said of persons more advanced in life, who should be allowed to lead up to the argument themselves. Let children begin to feel and to know that there is something wrong in the drink, and then is your opportunity to commence. The points most important to explain are the nature of this drink, what it is, that it is not a drink in itself, but a purely artificial something in water. Tell them how it exists, when it was first discovered, how it is made, and what it is. Then it is important to show them that there is not one alcohol only, but a family of them, that certain of these alcohols would kill directly, and that by a mere accident one of them came into common use. You can then show the evils that spring from it, the laws framed against it, as well as the proverbs against it. To more advanced