

selves with setting the reiterated declaration of the Legislature that it has been, at times, something considerably less than a Grammar School! The very revival of the old Home District School, which is to-day known as the Toronto County Grammar School, is sufficient evidence of the estimate placed by the Legislature on U. C. College. It may, however, be instructive to see what the institution is, at its own modest showing.

The boys of U. C. College are classified in six forms, the 1st and 2nd of which, that is the two lowest in the School, being double. The boys in the highest or sixth form are engaged in preparing for the University; and this form will therefore correspond to the University Class of a County Grammar School. On the other hand, Mr. Cockburn informs us [212] that for admission to the 1st, or lowest form, a knowledge of the following subjects is required: "Reading, Spelling and Dictation, Writing and the first Four Rules of Arithmetic." From this it appears that no knowledge whatever of English Grammar is presumed in boys occupying the First Form of U. C. College. The use of the word "College" in connection with such a fact forms a fine example of anti-climax! As a matter of course boys entering the "College" in such a state of mental destitution as regards the Grammar of their mother tongue must naturally spend a very considerable portion of their time on this neglected branch. We accordingly learn from Mr. Cockburn [213] that in "the First and Second Forms the studies are mainly English." Mr. Stennett, the predecessor of the present Principal, is even more exact. He informs us that [214] in these forms of the College, "*more than two-thirds of the time are devoted to the elements of an English Education*,"—an amount of time and attention which, under the circumstances, we should be very far affirming, is excessive! Mr. Stennett, furthermore, informs us [215] that "boys generally enter at the age of eight or nine years." Judging from the extreme severity of the Matriculation Examination, we should have conjectured that six or seven years would be the average age of these infant aspirants for "Collegiate" Honors. Now, inasmuch as, in addition to higher qualifications in other respects, the Grammar School Inspector demands from pupils entering the Grammar Schools that knowledge of English Grammar which, it appears, is only acquired in U. C. College, by assiduous attendance on Lectures, it is manifest that, before we compare the cost of U. C. College considered as a Grammar School, with the other Grammar Schools of the Province, we must previously reject from the attendance, those interesting, though backward, children who belong to the First College Form. It is in fact exceedingly questionable whether a majority of all the pupils in the Second Form would pass the scrutiny of the Grammar School Inspector. Concede, however, this to be the case. Now the attendance of First Form pupils will certainly constitute not less than one fourth of the total attendance of the "College." [215*] It will therefore, become necessary

212 U. C. College Circular, dated Sept., 1856, and signed Geo. R. R. Cockburn, M. A.

213 Ibid.

214 U. C. College Circular, dated 1859, and signed Rev. W. Stennett, M. A.

215 Ibid.

215* We have derived this fact from the few detailed Reports dispersed throughout the Sessional Papers. In some years the proportion has been much higher than one-fourth e. g. in 1856, it approached one-half. Vide Return for that year.