

Rand, well-known on account of his connection with the public school system of Nova Scotia, retains the professorship in English. After an interregnum of a year, a new Provost has been secured for Trinity University in the person of the Rev. E. A. Welch, who comes highly recommended by the Archbishop of Canterbury because of his share in the educational work carried on at Durham by the late Bishop Lightfoot. Trinity College School, under its old headmaster, Dr. Bethune, is again almost ready for occupation after the fire which partially destroyed it, while its older rival, Upper Canada College, is again benefitting by the (temporary) supervision of Mr. John Martland, who, for almost thirty years, was the popular and respected House Master at the old building in King Street. The Ontario Government is to be congratulated upon having chosen such a distinguished man as Dr. Parkin for the principalship of this school, as well as upon having appointed Professor Fletcher, of Queen's University, to the newly established professorship in Latin in University College. Professor Fletcher is a Canadian, a former Head Boy of Upper Canada College, and a graduate of the universities of Toronto and Oxford. By his scholarship and the conscientious performance of his duties he has commanded the respect of his students at Queen's, and by taking a kindly interest in them he has endeared himself to them. In every way the appointment seems to be a good one, considering present circumstances, and, accordingly, we welcome Professor Fletcher to Toronto, although Kingston is the loser by his coming among us.

#### Educational Appointments

While we have congratulated the Ontario Government upon two of its recent appointments, we must say that it is a great pity that equally good counsels did not prevail upon former occasions when important positions were to be filled by the Government. With regard to the professorship of Latin, the principle of "not fighting the devil till you meet him" seems to have been acted upon. The University Act of 1887 provides for a professorship of Latin in the University College, but neither it, nor certain others, also mentioned in the Act, had been dealt with until the devil met the Government in the shape of the unseemly revolt of the undergraduates and the equally unseemly newspaper correspondence between certain members of the staff. It is idle for the Government to plead lack of funds, for, as long as it retains the large measure of control over the University of Toronto that it now claims, and exercises, it is its duty to see that the equipment is ample; and no stretch of the imagination can make any one think that it is so. Again, if the Government had been mindful of the financial interests of the University, certain transactions that have tended to cripple it would not have been sanctioned. Thus there would have been plenty of money to establish the professorships called for in the Act both in University College and the University of Toronto. But the Government, having omitted to order a *separation de biens* between the University and the College, and having neglected to see that the joint endowment was properly conserved, found itself unable to carry out the provisions of the Act, as far, at least, as appointments are concerned. Thus discontent was created in certain quarters and, as a more or less direct result, we had the unseemly correspondence already referred to. Therefore, to just the extent that this correspondence caused the recent troubles, the Government must be prepared to shoulder the blame, as being an accessory before the fact. If the Government wishes to avoid adverse criticism on this head in future, it must act upon well defined principles in choosing professors and

other official persons for the institutions for which it is responsible. At this moment the professorship in Mineralogy and Geology, and the instructorship in Italian and Spanish are vacant, owing to the resignation of Professor Chapman and Mr. F. J. A. Davidson, yet neither of these positions has been advertized, although the long vacation is almost over. The vacancy in the former, which, we understand is provided for by the rental derived from the city's lease of Queen's Park, was mentioned as an item of news in the daily papers some weeks ago, while the public had not been informed of the establishment of the instructorship in Italian and Spanish until a few days since when a paragraph appeared in the newspapers saying that Mr. Davidson had resigned it. On the face of it all this mystery appears rather strange. What evil results secret bargains have produced in University affairs are only too well known to those who have watched the course of events during the last ten years. Yet it is reported that there are now two or three other secret pledges waiting to be redeemed. Surely the professorship in Mineralogy is not the prize mentioned in one of these! The proper course for the Government to pursue in this and all other cases is to advertise positions as soon as they are established or become vacant, to make no promises before hand, and to get the best man the money offered will attract, no matter where he comes from. If, like Professor Fletcher and Dr. Parkin, the best man happens to be a Canadian, so much the better. Then we shall have the happy medium between the old, unsatisfactory University policy of always finding the best man to be an Englishman, and the more modern, though hardly more satisfactory, one of always giving way before the popular cry of "Canada for the Canadians."

#### Decrease of Crime in England.

The confirmed pessimist will find little encouragement in the statistics of crime in England during the last quarter of a century, while all other citizens must find matter for congratulation and hope in the result of an analysis of the yearly records, by Mr. Charles E. Webster, which we find in a late number of the *N. Y. Independent*. The tables taken by Mr. Webster for examination cover the period from 1868 to 1894, about twenty-five years. The net outcome of his analysis and deductions is that during that period, taking all classes of crime together, there has been an average decrease of about eight per cent., though there has been, during the same time, an increase of about twelve per cent. in the population, which should, of course, other things being equal, have caused a corresponding increase of crime. Crimes, in the tables from Mr. Webster draws his facts, are divided into six classes, as follows:

1. Offences against persons.
2. Offences against property, with violence.
3. Offences against property, without violence—thefts, etc.
4. Offences against property for purpose of revenge—incendiary fires, destroying crops, etc.
5. Making and passing counterfeit money.
6. Offences against public order.

In the second and fourth classes there have been increases of 28 and 19 per cent., respectively, while in classes 1, 3, 5 and 6 the rates of decrease have been 8.8, 30.6, 34, and 22 per cent., respectively. This is surely most encouraging, especially during a period in which the records of most other nations show a decided tendency to increase of crime. Mr. Webster's studies of the records further show that in such crimes as drunkenness, cruelty to animals, sanitary and hygienic offences, etc., though they are more closely looked after every year, and a considerable increase in the number