

EDITORIAL NOTES.

TOPICS OF THE TIME.

The future of the English language is, at the present time, a matter of anxious concern to those who regard with uneasiness the persistent efforts of sciolists and tinkers to remould the mother tongue on the principle of phonetic spelling. The agitation for the so-called "Spelling Reform" is one which we trust will be sternly resisted in Canada, as, however rational some of the proposals may be, to remove from the language some of its more glaring inconsistencies, the scheme as a whole is a wild dream of unwise, half-educated men, who would, for a craze, mongrelize our whole literature beyond recognition. It is very desirable, no doubt, that we should have consistency and uniformity in orthography, and to this end we would go some length in meeting the reformers of the language, but their designs extend much further than this, and would treat words as visible objects to be shaped in their spelling after their own orthoepic notions, regardless of their history and derivation. In the forms of those letters which imperfectly represent our vowel sounds, we should be prepared to entertain proposals to alter them, or to extend their number. So in regard to other matters, in which a change or an improvement would be serviceable, we would not object to innovation. But to revolutionize the language, and to desecrate our literature, by recasting its whole structure in the melting pot of visible and audible uniformity, as so many American theorists on the subject would do, is a project which should be utterly scouted and receive the discouragement it deserves.

WE have little to add to our remarks of last month upon the new School Bill, which, in a considerably amended shape, became

law as the session was about to come to a close. Immature as were many of the clauses of the Bill, and uncalled for as were almost all of its provisions, it is to be regretted that the House was not prorogued before it had a chance of being placed upon the Statute Book of the Province. We do not doubt Mr. Crooks's good intent in introducing the measure, but there is much in its provisions to warrant the belief that the interests of the schools were not wholly the motive which gave to us new legislation on the subject. A few more such sacrifices to political and sectarian intrigue, as education has just been called upon to make, will not be long, however, in testing the permanence of the office of Minister of Education. Governments that lend themselves to such legislation not unnaturally, also, imperil their existence.

WHAT is the matter with our contemporary "The School Journal?" In the last two numbers it has taken a new departure, and "gone back on" its loyal adherence to the Education Department from which, in its nursing days, it received that aliment which substantially aided it in finding its feet. This is ungrateful. But it has taken a more serious departure in the tone and style of its editorials, which we cannot say are an improvement on the crude efforts in composition which have hitherto been the noticeable feature of the *Journal*. Under the evident inspiration of some American contemporary, 'out west,' it has exchanged its former sober and timid style of writing for the flippant and the critical; and with a rough malice and a vulgar sneer assumes a defiant attitude towards the Minister of Education and the Department, which it ill becomes its conductors or its publishers to affect. The editor of the *Journal*, in his monthly lucubrations, mani-