

and which commends itself to the reason as well as to the moral intuition of even a child. Let us not quarrel about a name. The only difficulty will be in inducing believers in dogmatic theology, as are nine-tenths of all those who value religious teaching, to accept this as such teaching.

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### Municipal Government of Cities.

THE question of internal administration in cities, though circumstances have just now brought it to the front in an especial manner in Toronto, is, nevertheless, one of so great interest to every city in the Dominion that no apology is needed for discussing it in a journal whose mission it is to deal with general rather than with local questions. The revelations which are being made before Judge McDougall's Court of Inquiry have very naturally stirred the citizens of Toronto, as they have not in a long time been stirred by any municipal affair. The mass meeting of citizens held on Friday evening last was a manifestation of this feeling, which, there is reason to hope, may bear fruit in the shape of a wiser, purer, and more efficient civic government.

The leading citizens of all classes were fairly well represented at the meeting, and though all were not of one mind touching the reforms proposed, the desirability of very important changes was affirmed with sufficient unanimity to afford good ground to hope for practical and permanent results. While changes of system of considerable importance were recommended, the meeting did well to remember that not only is the evil too deep-seated to be cured by any spasmodic outburst of righteous indignation, but that no change of system will effect the reform needed, unless carried into effect by the constant watchfulness and untiring energy of honest and able administrators.

The meeting wisely took action to prevent the movement from exhausting itself in words by appointing a large and representative Citizens' Committee, to hold office until the improvements recommended and such others as may be found to be desirable small have been effected. The question of making this or some smaller committee permanent may perhaps arise on a future occasion.

The first change recommended by the meeting is a pretty radical one, but it is one which will, we believe, commend itself on reflection to most intelligent citizens. Its essential feature has been more than once advocated in these columns. It involves two important innovations, the separation of legislative from executive functions, and the payment of a small number of first-class experts, chosen to be the Executive branch of the civil government, with adequate remuneration, they in return to give their whole time and their best energies to the service of the city. Toronto is rich enough to pay adequately those who are capable of doing necessary work, and work which requires qualifications of no common order. She should be too independent, or too proud, or, if you please, too sagacious to ask or expect to have it done on any other than this sound business principle, and we may be sure that if the right men are chosen, the change, instead of increasing the cost of civic administration, will prove to be a most economical one, reducing, rather than increasing, the rate of taxation.

Many important questions arise in connection with this proposal which are matters of detail, and into which the meeting did not, of course, enter. Such are the number of the Executive officers, and of the Legislative Council, which will still be needed, composed of some of our wisest and best citizens. How, and by whom shall the members of the Executive be appointed, is a question of fundamental importance, which the meeting might have well dis-

cussed. Not by the Mayor alone, we should hope. That is as one of the speakers pointed out, the New York system, which is a sufficient reason for its rejection. There are, too, serious objections to appointment by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the Council, or appointment by the Council, subject to ratification by the Mayor, though it may, perhaps, be difficult to suggest a better method than one of these.

The other innovation approved by the meeting has also been hitherto discussed, and met with a good deal of favour. We refer, of course, to the resolution recommending that the ward system be done away with, and that the Aldermen be elected by the direct vote of the rate-payers of the city, without reference to such divisions. The evils of the ward system, even with the enlarged wards into which the city is now divided, are seen to be so glaring in practice that it is doubtful if a really reliable body of Councillors can be elected so long as that method remains in vogue. For our own part, we are inclined to anticipate a day when the analogous system shall be abolished in Dominion and Provincial elections, in which the abuses arising out of the selfishness and pettiness of local aims and interests are among the most corrupting influences which degrade our politics. In so speaking we have not in view, either in civic or general elections, the cumulative, but the "one-man, one-vote," method. Of course, the practical difficulties would increase with the size of constituencies, but they could not be very serious in a city no larger than Toronto.

But it must not be forgotten that these reforms, even if adopted, belong to the future and cannot be brought into operation in time for the approaching elections. It should be remembered, too, that no machinery, however excellent, can work itself. Even were the most perfect system that the wisdom of man could devise put into immediate operation, it could not bring about the needed reform, without the active co-operation and perpetual vigilance of the best citizens. Everything would still depend upon the characters and qualifications of the men behind the system. The perfected machinery would prove but a delusion and a snare, unless the mental and moral energies of good citizens were brought into perpetual requisition as the operating force. Our present system, with all its defects, is capable of producing good results were it worked throughout by honest and capable hands. The primary cause of the present deplorable failure is the selfish and purblind indifference, of which we spoke last week, of so many of the very citizens who ought to be foremost in energetic effort to insure the election of the right men to municipal office. It is to be hoped and presumed that the large and influential Citizens' Committee which has now been appointed will recognize it as an important and indispensable part of their duty, not only to induce the right men to offer themselves as candidates for the high and honourable positions of aldermen, but to use every practicable means to impress upon all the voters that it is their bounden duty to use their votes and influence to secure the election of such men. It may be worthy of consideration whether a brief but stirring circular placed, if possible, in the hands of every tax-payer, might not help to bring about this result.

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### Women Teachers.

THE question of allowing married women to be teachers in our public schools was recently brought up before the Board; and we are happy to see that common sense prevailed, and that the opponents of the lady teachers were defeated by a very satisfactory majority.

What was the reason for this question being raised at