

of admission, moreover, is low, and the emoluments of the teacher are consequently poor. How to meet and deal with these defects, as well as to readjust the programme of studies to the common-sense views to which the public mind is now returning, calls for the action of an able and large-minded administrator. The lack of thoroughness of teaching in elementary subjects, and the time misspent in studies of a fanciful and impractical character, also demand attention. It is more and more clear that we must be satisfied with a less ambitious education, and what is taught should bear better fruit. The forcing system applied to all and sundry is assuredly bad. It is of advantage neither to the pupil nor to the country. It were better to have a lower and more level degree of culture, and let that be sound and not artificial. Even in a college education there is much of the latter. We miss the fondness of learning for its own sake, and there is too much of that which tends to create a prejudice against honest labour and to erect artificial social distinctions. Education will naturally elevate the sphere of a man, but it should also elevate his work. It should be the aim of education, that the farmer shall become a more scientific one, and the mechanic one of greater skill—not that either should be other than he is. It is the weak point of our school system that too many of the population who receive its benefits are educated out of the sphere to which they socially belong. Such a course withdraws from the class their picked men and choicest leaven—too often, alas, without improving their condition. These, and such like problems, are fast becoming the questions of the time. Would that we had a man to deal with them!

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

THE current number of our contemporary, the *Canada School Journal*, which advertises "Powerful Educational Essays!" (though it promises nothing in the way of grammatical or orthographically-correct ones) as an attractive feature of the publication, has a flattering and, we suppose we are expected to

say, powerful obituary notice of the Central Committee, whose demise the Minister of Education has just determined on. The decision of Mr. Crooks officially to wipe out of existence the Central Committee, as at present constituted, we may safely hazard the statement, is no act of his own volition, or rather of his own suggesting. The truth is, it has been forced upon him by the scandal created by the acts of some of the members of the Committee, and is obviously a political stratagem to ward off aggressive criticism at the approaching session of the Local Legislature. No doubt our legislators will see Mr. Crooks's motive in its proper light, and will not allow him to escape censure for the political partizanship which held his hand from the decapitation of the offending Committee. men when regard for official propriety, integrity of conduct, and the purity of the educational administration of the Province called for instant and summary action. In the *School Journal* article, which consists mainly of a piteous appeal for the diversion of the expectant stream of public gratitude towards the advisory body of the Minister, rather than towards the Minister himself, we are told, as an excuse for the long retention in office of the Central Committee, "that it was necessary for the due completion of important changes" (in the educational system) "that the same hands should carry on the work from first to last. Any change in the *personelle** (sic) of the Central Committee," it is added, "would

* The unfamiliar form of this word, in the sense at least in which it is used, will be no surprise to our readers who are acquainted with the orthographic congeries and the playful eccentricities in spelling, which are so eminently characteristic of our contemporary. It occurs to us, however, to ask if the "Directing Mind," when he penned the article, which we take to be his, imagined that the word took on a feminine termination and was proper to be used as applied to a body which we have an idea he wished to represent to the coming historian as a female conclave, and thus fasten upon the other sex the disgrace which has fallen upon the Committee under the present educational regime. However this may be, the "shaky spelling" in the article indicates the limitations of genius, and suggests that as Nature has drawn the line of economy of gifts, in the case of the Senior Inspector, at orthography, English as well as French, it is folly to continue to entrust the examination of the schools in a subject to an Inspector who, if anything, is a specialist, and who, particularly in the more practical departments of education, is signally lacking in that broad general culture so essential to the efficient discharge of the duties of one holding his position.