

opponent, which any fair man would publish as an act of justice, were excluded, it might be urged that it was crowded out, lost or mislaid; but when the same course has been pursued for years, we cease to devise excuses, and attribute it to its true cause—a settled system of injustice, reinforced by ardent cowardice. Most people are aware that “the cumulative principle,” as applied to our contemporary, has long since afforded a correct clue to its character.

The rumours to which the *Mail* gave publicity for several days have been substantially confirmed. The Supreme Court appointments are definitively made, and the vacancies in the ranks of the Provincial Judges filled up. It appears to us that, as far as they are announced, these appointments will command universal approval. So far as Ontario is concerned, at any rate, they are unexceptionable. We do not think it would be possible to select a lawyer, either from the bench or the bar, who combines so many of the qualities desirable in a President of the Court, or whose elevation to that position will be greeted with so hearty a satisfaction, as Chief Justice Richards. As a representative of Equity Mr. Strong is not so well known to the lay community, but in the eyes of the profession he stands (possibly with the exception of Mr. Edward Blake) *facile princeps*. The name of Mr. Moss is mentioned by the *Globe* as the probable successor of Mr. Justice Strong in the Court of Appeal. If this probability becomes a certainty, we should be better able to congratulate the new judge if we could do so with unalloyed satisfaction. That he would prove an ornament to the bench there can be no question; yet his appointment would still be a matter of regret. The hon. member for West Toronto has been only a short time in Parliament, but he has given evidence of marked ability and aptitude for public life. Taking a manly and independent course on behalf of enlarged and patriotic views, it would be a misfortune if his political career were cut short by elevation to the bench. The way up is always open to a professional man of eminence, but it is not often that one in the prime of life has, to all appearance, so promising a public career before him. It would be much better to place Mr. Moss beside Mr. Blake in the Government, and, therefore, we hope the impression con-

veyed by the *Globe* is correct—that this appointment is still *in dubio*. Of the Supreme Court Judges from the other Provinces we are less competent to speak except at second-hand, but they are all men of recognised standing and ability, and will no doubt be acceptable to the profession and the public more immediately interested in their elevation. The other changes have not yet been authoritatively announced, so that it may be premature to express an opinion upon what may turn out to be mere speculation.

The Attorney-General has determined to establish a Ministry of Education, and named Mr. Crooks as the first occupant of the new office. The Chief Superintendent has for some years been urging the Government to take this step, and his importunities have at length been rewarded. There is much to be said for and against the measure, but, on the whole, Mr. Mowat seems to have acted wisely; at any rate it is too late now to discuss the matter. The appointment of Mr. Crooks we should consider a good one, if we thought he had backbone enough to hold his own with such a practised wrestler as Dr. Ryerson. If he consents to go down gracefully and acknowledge the chief to be a “a present deity,” all will be well; but should he prove restive and recalcitrant, his life will be a burden to him. Power and responsibility would be so hopelessly involved in conflict that the present state of affairs in the Council of Public Instruction would be halcyon in comparison. Indeed, we know of nothing comparable to it, sacred or profane, unless it be the scene in Virgil:—

“At, Phœbi nondum patiens, immanis in antro
Bacchatur vates, magnum si pectore possit
Excussisse deum.”

Whether *antro* would represent the Normal School or the Government Buildings, or which would be the Sibyl and which Apollo, it is perhaps impossible to say. Mr. Crooks ought by all means to insist upon a clean sweep in the Department. No good can result from putting the new wine into old bottles, unless it be a good to have it spilt over the columns of all the newspapers in the country. If we are to have a Minister of Education, we do not want a Chief Superintendent, but a permanent Deputy Minister, tolerably amenable to reason and control. Dr. Ryerson has repeatedly expressed a wish to retire, and if he is still