

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN LOWER CANADA.

NUMBER I.

SIR,—Upon the Hon. Superintendent rests the *onus* of the *present* renewal by me, of the discussion of the educational question in Lower Canada.

Having called attention to his reply to me in the last numbers of the French and English Journals of Education, you will, no doubt, in the exercise of fair-play, and from your desire to promote the interests of public education, grant me space in the *Witness* for a series of letters.

THE APOCRYPHA.

The Hon. gentleman attempts to evade the accusation of putting the Apocrypha on an equality with the Old Testament Scriptures in the programme of questions for the examination of teachers in Sacred History.

As if the principle involved would be affected, or the issue changed by the *number* of questions, he equivocally states that those having reference to the book of the Maccabees, are the following :—

" 56. Give an account of the martyrdom of the old man Eleazar and of the Maccabees."

" 57. What was the end of Antiochus ? "

" 58. Relate the chief exploits of Judas Maccabeus."

" 59. What was the condition of Judea from the death of Judas to the accession of Herod ? "

The Superintendent does not even intimate to his readers, that there is a single question on any other Apocryphal Book !

Take the following, omitted by him :—

" 46. Relate the history of Tobias."

In this " history," which makes up some seven of the fourteen chapters of the Book of Tobit, an angel called Raphael, who says he is " one of the seven *holy angels* which *present the prayers of the Saints*, and which go in and out before the glory of the Holy One," is represented as appearing in human form, and *falsely* calling himself " Azarias, the son of Ananias." He teaches Tobias how to *exorcise the devil or any other evil spirit by the smell and smoke of the roasted heart and liver of*