

THE HOUSE AND EDUCATIONAL QUESTIONS.

THE debates on the Address, on both sides of the Local House, have this Session been of so stirring a character that we may not unnaturally look for some lively discussion of educational topics when Mr. Crooks makes up his mind to bring them before the Legislature. We could wish that, with regard to some of the Minister's actions, the doctrine of "Disallowance" were more frequently acted upon, and agitation upon the "Boundary Question," in circumscribing Departmental Centralization, made practically operative. But Mr. Crooks, in the meantime, exercises imperial power, and education and educational interests must submit to be shaped as he thinks best. His party, moreover, is strong in the House, and we presume we are far from seeing it divest itself of an office which can shed even a feeble lustre upon the Administration, and in its patronage add to its days. Nevertheless, we long for a separation of our educational affairs from politics, and a return to the system of a permanent lay executive. Happily, signs are not wanting that this view of the matter is growing in the country, and we may yet see our wish realized.

What Mr. Crooks' bill-of-fare is to be, we cannot of course divine. It is time, however, that we had the Ministerial Report, and we shall look in it for an utterance on the subject of "Cram," and for practical suggestions for its repression. The want of new School Readers, no doubt, will be touched upon, and we may look for a deliverance on trade ethics, for the benefit of rival publishers, and the usual mandates against the use by the profession of unauthorized text-books. Mechanics' Institutes will, we presume, have some attention, and we would look to the proposed Public Libraries Act for the means of galvanizing these moribund institutions into quickened life. Upper Canada College—well, we cannot, we won't, touch the "burning" question! But Dr. May and the Commission of Inquiry deserve consideration. Yet it will be time, perhaps, to

speak of this grave matter when the Minister has told us *what has* been done. We need hardly say that the public will not suffer itself to be now cajoled in respect to these Depository scandals, and will have no white-washing Report as the result of a perfunctory Inquiry.

There is talk again of a reconstruction of the Central Committee, three of its late members—Messrs. Watson, Tilley and Glashan—having retired at the end of the year. Professor Watson, whose withdrawal is a loss to the Minister's advisory body, is, we believe, to be replaced by Mr. Maurice Hutton, Classical Professor at University College. The appointment of this gentleman is, we should say, an admirable one. To fill the other vacancies, we understand that Mr. J. Howard Hunter, M.A., and Principal Buchan, of Upper Canada College, have been asked to take office. As they are both adepts in educational matters their appointment will, no doubt, be acceptable to the public. From the reorganized body we will look for good results, in this reconstruction of the *personnel* of the Committee, and the increase of its practical working power.

It is always pleasing to us to notice any expression of kind feeling which marks the relation subsisting between teacher and pupil, and of regret at any severance of that relation. Recently Mr. David Boyle, Head Master of the Public School, Elora, was made the recipient of a handsome gold watch by the pupils of the school, on the occasion of his retiring from professional work. The address which accompanied the testimonial spoke in dutiful terms of the appreciation, by the pupils and their guardians, of Mr. Boyle's long, able, and conscientious services as a teacher, and of his zeal and intelligent interest in the Elora Museum, the Mechanics' Institute of the town, and other public-spirited work. Mr. Boyle has also received kindly testimonials from the South Wellington and Guelph City Teachers' Association, expressive of the gratitude of that body for Mr. Boyle's helpful aid in the many years he has been connected with it. Mr. Boyle, we learn, is about to enter the service of the Canada Publishing Company, Toronto, to represent their various educational enterprises. We wish him hearty success.