

EDITORIAL NOTES.

OUR EDUCATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

OUR contemporary, the *School Journal*, in its *bi-monthly* summer issue—a fashion set by ourselves, by-the-way, but which it credits, as a matter of course, to others—publishes an abstract, in extraordinary English, of “Proposed Changes in the Departmental Regulations” affecting Public and High Schools, for which it *thinks* the Minister of Education. As the Minister, with that distinguishing courtesy which characterizes his Department, has given *us* nothing to be thankful for, we are at a loss to know how far the *School Journal* bulletin is to be considered an official document, in official English, and emanating from an official mind. It is true, the document is labelled a “*Summary of improvements* intended to be effected in important subjects of our Provincial system of Public and High Schools;” but we are not told, nor can we readily divine, whether this is the euphemistic judgment of our contemporary, or an affectation of the Minister, with the view of commending his new regulations in school administration to the minds of his colleagues in the Cabinet, to whom, it would seem, they have not been submitted, though they unaccountably make their first appearance in the trade-organ of Messrs. Gage & Co. As the School Act, however, is like one of those lumps of putty which the fingers of a nervous boy love to fiddle with, and idly to fashion into all sorts of monstrosities, we have concluded that Mr. Crooks has, during recess, been again in the glazing-shop, and has run down to show his admiring friends on Wellington Street a cast of the new formations on the surface of the plastic mass he has had under his hands. When the cast has been submitted to the pondering gaze of the Government, and has received the last touches of the

shrived ruler of the educational kingdom, the carven block is itself to be exhibited, and the trumpets are to summon forth the profession many times a day to worship it.

But to drop our figure, it may be worth while to inquire how Mr. Crooks comes at this time of the year—when the House is not in session—to propose to put into operation such extensive and radical changes in our school system. Mr. Crooks, it is well known, has no command of the resources of a great public man, and he is so anomalously compounded of capriciousness and political partisanship that it is not unreasonable to look, if not with disfavour, at least with apprehension, upon any organic changes in the Departmental Regulations he may wish to originate. Unfortunately, moreover, his knowledge of the working of our school system, and the necessity that now and again arises for its reconstruction, is derived at second-hand; hence he is not the safest man to be trusted with unchecked power in remodelling or amending our educational constitution. True, he is understood to have at call an advisory body that is supposed to guide him aright in the exercise of his functions; but the Central Committee of late has become so mythical an organization, that we hardly know that it has palpable form and substance, or, if it has, that the Minister deigns to make use of it. In the Summary of Amended Regulations, it has not escaped us that the Central Committee is twice referred to; but neither reference to it is in the present tense, and it is impossible to say whether the Minister has had recourse to an active or a moribund body, or to a certain school official, who, like the “elderly naval man” in the ballad of *Nancy Bell*, may represent in himself the whole of the ship’s cargo and crew.

One thing is plain, however, that if the