

reason to be watchful of the intrigues of some of his Central Committee in placing on the authorized list such works as they were directly or indirectly interested in, may serve some further admonitory purpose which will repay the labour of preparing the return.

Mr. Harcourt's motion for the Statistics of the pupils in each year from 1877 to 1880, who were preparing at the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes for the profession of Public School teachers, with the number of those who matriculated at Universities, and indicating those who gained honors, may likewise be justified by the direction which subsequent discussion may take. The return may prove of service if it bring into relief the number of those who enter upon the work of education prepared at the High, rather than at the Normal, Schools, and if it direct attention to the inefficiency of the latter as institutions of professional training which, if they are to be maintained, should be doing more thorough and creditable work.

Mr. Morris's motion in regard to University Consolidation is one that a competent Minister of Education would not have allowed to be moved by anyone outside the Cabinet,—if he did not himself initiate the movement; far less would he permit the motion to be made by a member of the Opposition. In default of the Minister's action, the motion comes very fitly from the member for East Toronto. The proposal is a commendable and desirable one, though the Committee to whom it is proposed to entrust it, in our humble judgment, is not by any means of the character which ought to be chosen for so grave and responsible a work. However, we are of opinion, to which we gave expression last month, that a more comprehensive and exhaustive inquiry was urgently needed into the whole subject of education, and that the Committee should be composed of experts occupying the highest positions in the Province, and of the ripest professional experience. If the Minister of Education would avail himself of such a body, and restore, with the best procurable material, the Council of Public Instruction, he would do a lasting service to the cause of

education, and do much to redeem his administration in the eyes of the country. It is said that, instead of taking such a course, the water-logged Central Committee is to be towed as a derelict to its moorings again, and to be put to such harbour uses as the dismantled wreck may be able to perform. We trust that some Plimsoll may be found in the House to save education from so great a misfortune and the Province from such a disgrace.

### THE EDUCATION REPORT FOR 1879.

THE Minister's Report for 1879, which has been religiously locked up in a cupboard until the meeting of the House, as a child's toy is hidden away by a mother's hands against some red-letter day in her little one's life, has just reached us. It appears, as our readers know, just a year behind time, and if biennial sessions are in future to be the rule in the Local Legislature, we shall be getting the record of our educational work in double-doses, and on the *third year* from that of which the Report treats. So much for the absurdity of official routine and the farce of the dignity of Parliament! Were the school year to end with the mid-summer vacation, as Mr. Morgan, of Barrie, in one of the Inspectors' Reports in the present "blue-book" wisely suggests, we might get the Minister's annual abstract six months earlier than we do. There is practical advantage in this, both to the Inspectors themselves, who have now to make their annual returns at the busiest season of the year, as well as to the House and the country; and we commend Mr. Morgan's suggestion to the Department. As the Report has only just reached us, we do not purpose to examine it here at any length. Deferring this task to our next issue, we simply skim its pages in the meantime, and baldly summarize its contents. We note that it has grown in bulk somewhat, over that of the previous issue, and we trust that the Minister, if he retains his portfolio, is not going to overpower us some day with a document as corpulent as that which used