

Depository with two distinct branches, one for books and the other for maps and apparatus. Public opinion has been found so strongly arrayed against this institution, that the Minister of Education has wisely resolved to abolish it, and a few weeks ago he publicly announced this intention on the floor of Parliament. It is necessary, however, for the Government to bear in mind that popular dissatisfaction with the Depository has not been solely due to the fact that its existence was an undue interference with private business enterprise. The chief cause of the notorious want of public confidence in the institution has been a suspicion that those in charge of it have been systematically making money out of their position over and above their legitimate salaries. In fact, it is not a matter of suspicion at all, for the Public Accounts for many years past show that large annual payments have been made to Dr. May, who has charge of the Depository, for map-making, map-coloring, etc., while it is well known that there has not been in existence any check upon his receipts in the shape of competition by tender. From evidence given last session, before the Public Accounts Committee, by Dr. May and Mr. Carter, who has for years had a monopoly of map-mounting, without competition, for the Depository, it is quite clear that a state of affairs has been in existence which calls for a searching investigation before the Depository is wound up. In the course of his testimony, Dr. May admitted that he was the chief capitalist in the "Canadian School Apparatus Co.," of which his son was manager; that Mr. Carter was at his instance taken in as a member of that Company without capital; that the Company manufactured chemical cabinets, blackboard-brushes, models, etc., which found their way into the Depository through the medium of Elliott & Co., and others, who acted as agents, and that some months ago the stock of the Company was sold out by Dr. May to Mr. Carter at twenty-five cents on the dollar, on the understanding that Mr. Carter was to sell it to the Depository and repay Dr. May out of the proceeds. Either Mr. Carter must have been a very nominal member of the "Canadian School Apparatus Co." or that Company must have been a myth, for he stated in his evidence that he was not a member of it at all—flatly contradicting Dr. May on a point of considerable importance.

It is very much to be regretted that no more evidence was taken by the Public Accounts Committee, for this was the only valuable glimpse the public have ever obtained of the way in which things have been managed in the Government establishment. It is quite clear that Dr. May should not be permitted to proceed with the winding up of the Depository, unless he can satisfactorily explain away some of the admissions he himself has made—admissions which go a long way towards confirming the worst suspicions the public ever entertained in connection with the Depository. Since the Legislature has been prorogued, it has been currently stated in the daily press that the Minister of Education has wisely determined to issue a commission to investigate the "management of the Depository," and that the investigation would be undertaken at once. If this statement is correct, the public will be glad to have it confirmed by the immediate appointment of a thoroughly competent commissioner authorized to take evidence on oath.

Nothing short of this will now satisfy the public, and nothing less should satisfy Dr. May or the Government themselves.

### MINOR MORALS AT SCHOOL.

The spirit of the age, on this continent at least, is before all things zealous for equality. There is an impatience of authority which expresses itself in WALT WHITMAN'S denunciation of all political systems which make the ruler of more account than the citizen. But equality, if developed beyond its simplest condition, in a state of savage life, must require a limitation of itself in every respect, which, as Bentham expressed it, trenches on the rights of others. Especially is this the case in the maintenance of that social recognition of the rights of others which we call politeness. If liberal institutions are the programme of our national happiness in the future, it must be by a process of "levelling up," not of "levelling down." All labor will be honorable when no laborer is a boor. In order to conduce to this, the school should be a training place for what are called "the minor morals," but which have far more than a minor relation to individual and national happiness. By a scrupulous attention to this, much friction will be avoided, and the position of the teacher strengthened.

### CHANGE OF BASE.

We are pleased to find that the condemnation expressed by us, and our numerous correspondents, concerning the unprofessional conduct of the Principal of the Hamilton Collegiate Institute, in issuing a magazine with the view of puffing his school, has led to a change, nominally at least, in the management of the paper referred to. It appears with the name of a new publisher, and a different business manager. We are glad to note the change, and are only sorry that we cannot assure the High School Masters of the Province that the change will free them from the ungenerous treatment they have received in the past. We regret to see indications in the magazine which clearly point to the conclusion that its management and aim are in no sense really altered. The hero of "repudiated scholarship" fame is now recognizable by his fellow-teachers even when his name does not appear.

—As we go to press we are in receipt of a communication from Mr. Inspector Marling, relating to the article in the March number of the JOURNAL respecting his report to the Education Department for 1880. It will appear in our next issue.

—A just condemnation of an attempt by penny-wise and pound-foolish economists at Swansea, to cut down the teachers,