

she led them. Can there exist a man who will not respond to the cry of his mourning Alma Mater?

#### EDUCATION AND POLITICS.

MR. MEREDITH'S proposal to take education out of politics is well received and will help to fill his sails at the election unless the Government alters its course so as to take the wind out of them. The abolition of the Council of Public Instruction a twelvemonth after its reorganization was not a deliberate measure or dictated by experience: it was caused by a personal crisis in the Board, the wrath of the Chief Superintendent having been kindled by the revision of his text-books, the inquiry instituted into his Depositories, the free exercise by the Council of its power of election to the headships of Training Colleges, and generally by the curb which the activity of the reorganized Council put upon his autocracy. Had the Government been firm enough to enforce upon its Chief Superintendent an observance of the rules of public life, or had there been a strong man in the Chair of the Council, all might have gone well. At the pass to which things had been allowed to come the change was inevitable, nor were there wanting other arguments in its favour, such as the convenience of having in the Legislature a Minister responsible for the expenditure. It seems to be felt, however, that the result of the experi-

ment is unsatisfactory and that it would be well to return to the old system or something like it. A Council is of course unfit for ordinary administration, which must be placed in the hands of some regular officer. But for such matters as the selection of text-books and the regulation of the curriculum it is useful. The Council was certainly free from any influence, political or commercial. Nor did it show any such tendency to ecclesiasticism as the Council of Instruction in Manitoba is said to betray. It is good for the educational profession to have at its head a body of its most eminent representatives. As Minister of Education we must take whomsoever, in the somewhat fortuitous distribution of offices among the leaders of a political party, it may please fate to give us, and if the man happens to be unfamiliar with the special subject and obliged to rely on others the result is an irresponsible Vizier or a Camarilla. With the withdrawal of education from politics Mr. Meredith, it may be surmised, will combine a cautious and conservative policy with regard to education generally. It is time that we should take care what we are about if we do not mean to educate country life and farm industry out of existence.—*Bystander*.

[We are gratified to have so accomplished and experienced an educator as the editor of the *Bystander* so fully in harmony with the policy advocated for years by this Magazine.—ED.]

EVERY book is a quotation; and every house is a quotation out of all forests and mines, and stone quarries; and every man is a quotation from all his ancestors.—EMERSON.

God be thanked for books! They are

the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages. Books are the true levellers. They give to all who will faithfully use them the society, the spiritual presence, of the best and greatest of our race.—W. E. CHANNING.