

EDITORIAL NOTES.

OUR EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS IN PARLIAMENT.

"THE Session of the Ontario Legislature," says the *Bystander*, "opens with the pomp of Provincial Monarchy and the 'Speech from the Throne.'" What lustre this magnificence will shed upon the subject of Education, when it comes to be deliberated upon by the assembled wisdom of the Province, remains to be seen. So far in the Session, discussion on this vital and most practical of questions would seem to be more affected by the majesty of silence than by that of a state pageant and emblazoned clothes. Mr. Crooks, of course, contrived that the subject should be smiled upon from under a cocked hat, and that the speech from the Throne should stroke Education with the fur, to the credit of the Province and the glory of the Minister. The subject has since been nibbled at by our representatives, but beyond putting a series of motions on paper, and calling for numerous returns, of little practical service in discussion, nothing has been done. There seems to be a hesitancy to approach the subject, or a lack of talent in the House, with the requisite knowledge, to deal with it. The latter we fear is the case. The Ministry are themselves shy of the discussion, and seem to want to draw the fire of the Opposition by files rather than by platoons. They evidently expected concerted attack, but the morn of battle doesn't come. What they themselves propose to do can only be matter of conjecture, for so far the oracles are dumb. Why speech should be restrained by party reticence when Education is the theme, it would be a difficult to say. Such a want of candour, if it does not excite hostility, is likely, at least, to awaken suspicion.

With regard to Upper Canada College, the Premier is responsible for postponing discussion on this anomaly of our school system. He has promised some measure, which he states is to popularize the institution, whatever that may mean; but with the feeling in the country against its privileged status, which, if we mistake not, has a strong reflex in the House, any proposal short of placing the College on the footing of the Secondary schools of the Province, we feel sure will not be satisfactory. We trust that the Government may see this matter in its proper light, and will do justice, however tardily offered, to the High Schools and Collegiate Institutes that over the country are doing such excellent work for the higher education of our youth. At this stage of our educational progress, when the Secondary schools are running so strenuous a race, and the masters have so eagerly accepted the strain which our elaborate educational system has imposed upon them, it is not generous, it is not just, to handicap them in the running by maintaining a pampered institution, which, whatever the achievements of the High Schools, their conductors must continue to see placed at an enormous advantage over them, and be given a status shamefully invidious, which it cannot be said, in competition with them, to have won. In this matter, whatever proposal the Ministry may have to make, the House will be doing a simple act of justice by giving careful consideration to the petitions now being sent in by the High School Teachers and Trustees.

Mr. Lauder's motion for a return of the text-books authorized by the Education Department from 1867 to the present time, though we do not see much practical result from it, now that the Minister has seen