

the Churches and the clergy of the Province; and if we do not get the name of this scion of ecclesiastical respectability, may he not try a yet safer and surer game of fraud when he emerges from his temporary seclusion in the Central Prison, Toronto?

A more important consideration remains. The extent of demoralisation shewn by the exposure of this fraud points to the existence of demoralising agencies of the worst kind in the highest places of our Education Department. The poor cheat who to-day works out his punishment in the Central Prison is a puny influence for evil compared with the confidence men who worked the examination frauds on a far larger scale, and over the investigation of whose delinquencies political influence at headquarters spread the shield of Party. For Tooke to sell to the fools and knaves who were his clients their bogus papers was a far less blow to public honour and public credit than that inflicted by the long-tolerated Book Depository and Apparatus Supply shop, with its very peculiar trade operations, and its safe and lucrative confidence game of buying from its own members at a minimum price what it sold to the public at a maximum! The gross abuses connected with the Depository and its adjuncts have been more than once exposed in the columns of this journal till at length the scandal became so patent that the Department was forced to put an end to the Depository in order to save further exposure. But with characteristic respect for public opinion, Mr. Crooks has put the principal offender into a new official position, one created to suit the convenience of so deserving an official, no longer, unhappily, subsidised by the Department for the purpose of underselling the legitimate book trade of the Province. When the Education Department is only too well known to be disgraced by long conniving at, and

reluctantly relinquishing, such a disreputable piece of business as this of the Depository Agency, no wonder that the demoralising influence from headquarters should pervade the outskirts of the profession, that petty local imposture should flourish, that the noble history of fortunes amassed out of the people's pockets by selling chemical and other apparatus to school trustees, at cent. per cent. profit, should fire the ambition of all teachers more conscious of a talent for sharp practice than for conscientious study!

Say shall my little bark attendant sail,
Pursue the triumph and partake the gale?

But the very fact of the prisoner, Tooke, plying a prosperous trade in the examination papers which he claimed he had surreptitiously obtained raises the question, whether these papers *were* what he professed them to be. We wish it were possible to reply to this, that the character of our Education Department stands so high, has been so clear of all suspicion of having ever permitted examination papers to be tampered with, that it is absolutely certain beforehand that the papers sold to the dishonest candidates by Tooke were in no sense what he affirmed they were. But unhappily this is just what the facts of the case negative: they all point the other way. The gravest charges of tampering with examination papers were brought several years ago against two officials, then as now in the supposed confidence of the Minister. The evidence, as taken by Commissioner Patterson, lies before us in a statement printed at the time. It goes to prove that the questions given to pupils in the Normal School a few weeks before the time of examination in June, 1874, by one of the masters, were almost identical with those given at the examination by one of the Inspectors. This is shewn by the two sets of questions,