

lous action of the Toronto wholesale houses in pushing their publications into the hands of teachers and the trade as *authorized* text-books without respect to the truth of the statement, and in utter disregard of honour and fair dealing. A further charge, and one more particularly directed against a certain favoured house in the Toronto trade, is that, availing itself of special sources of information—how acquired, it is not known—it makes announcement of changes about to be made in the lists, and hereupon proceeds to cajole the profession into introducing, and the booksellers into purchasing, quantities of books which, perhaps, never become authorized, or are almost instantly superseded by some other edition having the approval of the Department. A vicious state of things in connection with these trade monopolies and rivalries is said to exist, and the publishing houses of the city, unless seriously calumniated, possess no enviable reputation. The vocabulary of phrases which the *Monitor* makes use of to characterize the acts of the trade in this matter is no mild or limited one; and a reign of corruption and imposition is said to have begun "which if not checked in time will lead to a hurricane by-and-by." For the nonce, in perusing the article, we had almost persuaded ourselves that we had taken up an American journal, and that what was narrated of the doings of publishing houses in our midst was surely descriptive of the keen and often crafty rivalry of some enterprising firm in the trade on the other side of the lines. The control of a school journal, too, with all that is implied among our American cousins in having "an organ in the interest of the house," figures also in the *Monitor's* indictment of the Toronto book houses, and gives verisimilitude to the supposed sketch of American trade tactics. The "metamorphosing of teachers into agents for its circulation," and "its ready-made medium of indirect pressure upon the profession" in pushing the wares of the house owning it, with other injury to the cause of education and of morals, are further commented upon as evils of alarming import. But besides all the trade manipulation and chicanery which the *Moni-*

*tor* seems to have reason for denouncing, a grave charge is made against the Minister of Education, though absolving him personally from intent to do wrong. Says the *Monitor*: "But unfortunately for the good name of the minister, and for the well-being of the public interests, he has lent himself unquestionably too much, from causes already indicated, to the views of some publishing houses in Toronto and their satellites, whose principal object is to make money, no matter how the thing is done." This charge is unsubstantiated by any statement of facts, though if what is said by the Brockville journal about the minister being "jockeyed and ridden too much by some of the unscrupulous Toronto firms" be true, we should think it possible that, though quite guiltless himself, the sanction of the Department has been gained for acts interestedly done by others, and from no motive of the public good. If the charges of the *Monitor* in this matter have even a modicum of truth, there would seem to be further appropriateness in our comments of last month upon the necessity for rigorous impartiality in the work of the Advisory Committee upon text-books. That any favouritism should be shown by those who aid the Minister in the work of selecting and approving the text-books for use, is a reprehensible act, and any betrayal of the secrets of the Central Committee room that would give improper advantage to a house in the trade, is a gross breach of trust. But it is to be hoped that there is no reason to doubt that those composing the Advisory Committee of the Minister are gentlemen, notwithstanding the infraction of the code of propriety and official conduct which was morally brought home to some of its members last winter. In the public interest, however, the Minister would do well to take note of such causes of complaint as those the *Monitor* makes public, and, by giving a considerate ear to representations made honestly and with presumed reliableness by those interested in, or affected by, the acts of his department, he will acquit himself well of the high trusts committed to him, and faithfully serve the great cause he officially represents. But the prime remedy for the evils complained of seems to be in