

what he dealt with and forced to have recourse to irresponsible and arbitrarily appointed advisers."

In this arraignment of the Department, nine-tenths of the profession, we are assured, will concur, for the points made by Mr. Bryant carry conviction to every heart and find an echo in the breast of every man who has experience of our Educational Executive. It is surely a reproach to our system of Education that any body of men knowing what is wanted for our schools, if they do know, should foist Regulations upon them so experimental and conflicting that they become to the teacher a mass of "clotted nonsense," and should so muddle the machinery of administration that the profession can only see in it a whirl of wheels. No wonder that Mr. Bryant and the profession call for a change in the system, and thus enable the friends of good government to get Education out of the hands of party and back to purity and honour. Customs, we know, cling to walls, and the vices of the Education Office have been too deeply rooted to make it safe for the country to be content with anything but a radical change.

The first condition of success in the working of the Educational machine must be harmony, and harmony is impossible where the recommendation of fitness for being called to the Councils of the Minister, besides being a good Grit, seems to be faithlessness, unprofessional conduct, and common-place ability. If in this respect we are to have no improvement, if we are still to see the patronage of the Department made the means of rewarding politicians, if men are always to be made the practical rulers of their fellows in whom the profession have no confidence, and who outrage their position by the most reckless acts and improprieties, then we have seen the best days of our Educational machinery and may now prepare for the reign of the worst. But we have confidence in the better voice of the profession; and in the public mind, we are glad to see, there is a deepening sense of the folly of entrusting our educational affairs to politicians, and of placing the most sacred interests of the country in the hands of unscrupulous men. Our educational

system is worth saving: it is for the profession to say in what way it shall be saved.

But we must return to the subject of our retrospect, which so far, resembles Artemus Ward's lecture on the "Babes in the Wood," which was found to make no reference whatever to the sad tragedy. It will not, I hope, be said that in the still hour of the editorial demise we are so eager for battle that we cannot refrain from rushing once more into the field and smiting the foe. The foe, however, had better capitulate, else—there is a new editor!—it will be so much the worse for the foe. But seriously, we may be allowed to say, that fond as it may be presumed we have been of fighting, we have only desired to fight for the right, and that with honour. Whatever line the magazine has taken on any subject we confess to have been influenced by one motive—for they are one—the weal of education and the good of the profession. In connection with some matters we may have written, and doubtless have written, with more warmth than was perhaps discreet, but we have never consciously done a wrong. The illicit dealings of some inspectors with publishers; the petty intrigues by which they worry and debauch the profession; the occasional irritations of mud-scow journalism; the shameless manner in which text-books have been prepared and then foisted upon the schools; and the moral injury to education which results from its political connections—all these have time and again been the topics which have roused our indignation and perhaps put acid on our pen; but our handling of them has seemed to us the duty of a magazine that shall be true to its name and loyal to the interests that called it into being. We have made mistakes, and have written things we now wish we could unwrite; but we have also, we trust, done in some measure our duty, and acquitted ourselves not altogether without credit.

In laying down our pen we have no little satisfaction in knowing, and having confidence in him, who is to take it up. Mr. Geo. H. Robinson, M.A., late of Whitby Collegiate Institute, is to succeed us in the editorial chair. To his care we commit