

recent charges more seriously affect the Ottawa institution. In the general moral exhaustion, a gloom is settling upon the profession, and its more worthy members are having their faith shaken in the upward progress of education. "Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers." The Administration has become a political system, and those who look ahead are in doubt as to the future. Professional advancement, they fear, is not to be determined by merit. In the case of a recent vacancy, the Department is besieged by applicants, not a few of whom are pulling party wires, instead of trusting to their record and reputation. This course is taken unwisely; but it is a surrender of dignity and self-respect for which the Minister, we fear, is himself responsible. But Head Masters do not forget the political appointment to Brantford. Nevertheless, the vacant Inspectorship should seek the man, not the man the post. Mr. Crooks, by a *good* appointment, has it in his power to relieve the Masters from apprehension in regard to this matter. The profession would be glad to be assured that the things that weigh with him, in dispensing his patronage, are character, length of service, and solid acquirements. Fidelity to the highest interests of his office demands this; and no whisperings of party politics should drown the voice. An occasional note to heighten the *morale* of the profession, to discredit self-seeking, and promote *esprit de corps*, would be a word in season. The Minister's office is one to be looked up to; it should be a source of strength to the moral man, and a well of inspiration for his work. "*Cujus vita fulgur, eius verba tonitrua.*"

THE MINISTER AND THE HIGH SCHOOL INSPECTORSHIP.

SINCE the preceding article was in type the announcement has been made that Mr. J. E. Hodgson, B.A., of Brantford, is to succeed the late Mr. Marling in the High School Inspectorship. Regarded absolutely, Mr. Hodgson's appointment is, in many respects, unobjectionable. He is a Silver Medallist in

Classics of Toronto University, the Head Master of one of the leading Institutes in the Province, and has been, so far as the public can judge, a successful and hard-working teacher. His position and scholarship gave him claims to a consideration which might have been properly refused on the ground of his comparative inexperience. But we are not inclined to raise objections to the Minister's selection. We are heartily thankful that no sycophant, no hanger-on of the Department, no mere political wire-puller, has carried off the prize. Shadwell, we are told, "never deviated into sense." Our Minister of Education has on this occasion the advantage of Shadwell. Indeed, considering the attitude Mr. Crooks assumed from the first in regard to this appointment, Mr. Hodgson's success was in our mind almost a foregone conclusion. We have it on the best authority that Mr. Crooks voluntarily informed candidates for the vacancy that he had made up his mind to appoint no one who had been "mixed up in the old feuds." This calls for remark. And first we would remind the Minister that the attacks on the Central Committee, and the ill-feeling that still exists in certain quarters, were caused by his own blundering and by the vicious conduct of some of his subordinates. Under the circumstances, it will not be out of place if we here for a moment confront the present with the past. It is only fair to those who had the courage, persistence, and public spirit to force the Government to do its duty, and on whose honour and good faith the Minister has now the ill-grace to reflect, to recall to the mind of the reader the abuses against which a certain portion of the profession contended. The platform of the opponents of Mr. Crooks's initial policy was as follows:—

1. That no one should be an Examiner on the Central Committee whose scholarship and honesty did not recommend him for an appointment.

Since the Scandal period Mr. Crooks has accepted this doctrine, and has unceremoniously disposed of Messrs. Ross, Tilley, Hughes and Dr. McLellan. In reference to the last-named person, we may add, as an