

continue the use of what was understood to be but a temporary expedient—the crutch of a Central Committee—but in its favour has had practically to abnegate himself of his functions as head of the Department, is not to be wondered at. Holding thus the key of the position, it is still less matter of surprise that the advisory body became the ruling one, and that the brave, brigand spirits of it, up to the time of our heroic (though no doubt considered ill-mannered !) interposition, had matters all their own way. Fortunately, both the Press and the public are now seized of the unsavoury matters we were the means of bringing to light, and we doubt not that the Department will ere long be relieved of the official body which the Minister's laxity, in regard to the conduct of some of its members, has brought into grave disrepute, to the scandal of education and its professors. Into the matter of the Minister's untoward dealings with University affairs we do not wish here to enter, though it further illustrates the unhappy faculty he has of turning the "seamy side" of his character to public view. Other things were expected of Mr. Crooks, in the exercise of his patronage to positions in his *alma mater*, than to set the Faculty by the ears and to estrange from himself and the institution every *alumnus* of the College. Had there not been, as there was, a score of good acts he could have performed for University College, in this the time of its need, it were an ill-service done to it to trail its good name in the dust to minister to pride or to humour perversity. As we have said, however, this is a matter we do not wish here to deal with. Unhappily, in connection with the administration of the Education Office, there is enough to fill the cup of the Minister's guilt without going afield for further material for indictment. So much is this the case, that the question that now presses is What is to be done? Is the Minister's usefulness gone? Can Mr. Crooks continue to hold his present office and still not injure the interests that are his to protect? Our own opinion, loathe as we are to express it, is that he cannot. To recover lost favour and regain public esteem,

is, we fear, beyond Mr. Crooks' ability, and not likely to be his luck. Hence the necessity of a change, and the sooner we have it, the better.

In what shape the change should come is a question upon which public opinion, if we read aright the signs of the times, is likely soon to express itself. In the interest of education the desire would seem to be to return to a permanent non-political head for the Department, and to get back as fast as we can to the system of a Chief Superintendency. To dis sever the office from political control, and to instal some one more amenable to public opinion than a Minister, with a large majority behind his party, can be, is certainly the dictate of reason and of propriety. With the return to a lay management, as we suggest, we might then get a chief drawn from the profession of education, experienced in its duties, familiar with its systems, and devoting a life to the special interests which belong to the office. To his assistance he might on occasion be enabled to avail himself of the advice of a small well-chosen body, similar to the abolished Council of Public Instruction, whose services the Government might steadily acquire for consultation and direction on the weightier concerns of educational work. But with an experienced and trustworthy administrator, the necessity of outside aid, more particularly as he would now be relieved from the management of a cumbersome and entangling trading concern, the abandoned book depository and its adjuncts, is not now so manifest. We should then expect to see the last of frivolous school legislation, in which a political head is always under temptation to indulge, the last also of party devices and expedients of all kinds, and of the appointment and retention, from political motives, of objectionable men to places of position and trust in the profession. With the right man as administrator, the Department would then enter upon a new and brighter era of usefulness, with results of happy omen to the future of education and to the interests of those whose lives are being wearily yet hopefully spent in its service.