

time being, Mr. Crooks may amuse himself in preparing *ex parte* defences of the institution, and in throwing the regis of his position and office over the venerable establishment. But he will do well to remember that, in the march of these modern times, institutions of even higher claims to privileged maintenance have, in England, fallen before the levelling spirit of the age, and that under a democracy we are not likely to see an institution longer conserved merely on the score of antiquity or tradition. In writing as we do, we need hardly say that we have no designs on the spoil that may be recovered on the dismemberment of the College; still less have we any notion of looting Toronto University. If the College should go, we should gladly see the endowment revert to the source whence it came. By this the High Schools and Institutes would be the gainers, and the University itself receive that which it most stands in need of.

"CASUAL ADVANTAGES" IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE scandalous disclosures in regard to the management of the Education Depository which the Public Accounts Committee of the Ontario Legislature has just brought to light, as published in the *Globe* of the 18th February, reveal a rottenness at the headquarters of our Educational administration which, though it now startles the public, is no surprise to many who for years have had an eye upon the Department. The evidence of Dr. May, the Depository Superintendent, however reluctantly it was wrung from him, is of itself sufficient to justify every statement that censors of the Depository have made, for at least ten years back, as to the corrupt management of this Government trading institution. This makes the matter all the more damaging to the Government, who, notwithstanding the repeated affirmations of those cognizant of the malpractices of the officials in charge, and who from time to time have urged the Premier to inquire into the

management and working of the Depository, have turned a deaf ear to the warnings they have received, and continued till now to maintain the institution and harbour its officials, to the scandal of morals and the waste of the public revenue. But remiss, if not criminal, as the Government have been in the past, why, may we ask, is the inquiry not now pursued? Is the Government not strong enough to do right, and is there nothing due to the public, whose confidence has been outraged by practices, on the part of its servants, which should condemn the delinquents to instant dismissal and eternal obloquy? The Canadian School Apparatus Co., it is well known, was but an *alias* of Dr. May, and his establishment a back door for the Depository. That this official should for years be at once the requisitionist and the purveyor of the Depository, is a scandal that will ever adhere to the administration of the Department; while his transactions in the map and chemical trade, of an equally irregular character, are enough to demoralize the public service for all time. And it is this official who has stood in the way of the schools being supplied with adequate apparatus, and has so long palmed off on the profession a hawker's wares which, though they would not stand inspection, could be neither returned nor exchanged. To this official amateur trading is the country also indebted for the accumulated rubbish that still loads the Depository shelves, and in the injured name of literature remains a monument of administrative folly. Oh, that our path to fortune lay through a drug shop, a book establishment, and a museum! But the Hogarthian picture is not yet complete. "The Industrious Apprentice" is to be allowed to devote himself to a two years' research in the new-found library of the Education office, while he takes his recreation among the Assyrian Bulls of the adjoining museum. The "casual advantages" of this office, it is whispered, will be a commission on the printing of the library catalogue. After that he will be ripe for the Chaplaincy of the Education Office, or anything equally handy, moral, and money-making.