

have disturbed the crystalizing (*sic*) process." To this argument we could have little reasonably to say, had the labours of the Central Committee been confined to the public service, and not, as was the case with some of its members, to the service of their own pocket and that of a publishing firm with which they had intimate personal and business relations. But, fortunately for the Province, in the discreditable state of things that came to light, there *was* a disturbance of this pretty "crystalizing process" which really meant, as our readers know, the introduction into the schools of all the publications of a favoured house in the trade, and the ejection with mathematical certitude of every work in which the members of the Committee or their publisher-colleague had not an interest. That this iniquitous design was happily frustrated, we have to thank neither the Minister nor the members of the Committee whose hands were clean. Mr. Crooks, at last awakened to a proper sense of the venality of his advisors, now wishes to shew how keen is his perception of the dishonour attaching to their actions, and proceeds to pass a sponge over his Council Board, which he hopes will clean the slate of its dirty record. We are honest when we tell him that we trust it may; but we shall be much surprised if the tracings of the scandal be not still legible to the scrutiny of Parliament, and if it fail to insist upon more radical changes in the Department under his charge than any he has so far contemplated. Complacently, and with a becoming submission to fate, the writer we have already quoted adds, that "it is very advisable (*sic*) now that the examination system is thoroughly organized by the labours of the Central Committee, to give the system the benefit of a rotation of Examiners." Yes, it is very *advisable* (as we venture to spell the word); and it is a pity that in the interest of education; the plan of a rotation of Examiners was not hit upon long ago. But the present crisis in our educational affairs to which we have here and elsewhere in the present number alluded, necessitates a more thorough reconstruction of administrative machinery than Mr. Crooks designs in

introducing this change; and we are not unmindful of what *real* service the Central Committee has rendered to the country, in giving expression to this opinion.

THE "BYSTANDER" ON EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

OF the subjects of comment (ever remarkable for their wide range and scholarly handling) in the new number of the *Bystander*, two will be found of supreme importance to our readers, viz., those entitled "Public Education in Ontario," and "Upper Canada College." Both are referred to in view of their forming the subjects of debate in the forthcoming session of the Ontario Parliament. They are treated of briefly, but suggestively, and with a conservatism of utterance befitting the importance of the subjects, and manifesting mature and thoughtful views in regard to them. Disavowing any desire to sit in judgment upon the educational administration of the Province, the distinguished writer expresses the opinion that as our school system has in some degree been experimental, "the time for reviewing the results of the experiment may have come." With this apology, in a few sentences, he touches upon the cost of our school system, the programme of studies, over-education, co-education, the danger of over-crowding the professions, and other aspects of the subject of a disturbing and disquieting character—adding "that a Commission of Inquiry would not be premature, and might be of use, at all events, in dissipating misgivings, if they are unfounded, and assuring us that we are in the right path." Referring to the Executive of the Department, the writer deprecates "the connection of education with politics and cabinet government," and truly says, that the experiment of a Minister of Education "has not been wholly successful." He adds that "there are some who think it advisable to restore the Council of Public Instruction, or to institute some body of experts, mature in judgment, unconnected with politics, and placed above the suspicion of outside influence, for such functions as it