

# REV. PRINCIPAL GRANT

## ON

# THE MOWAT GOVERNMENT.

### Three Strong Reasons Why Every Elector Should Support It.

The following interview appeared in the *Toronto Globe* of May 23rd :

"Principal Grant, who is in the city attending a meeting of the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Committee, discussed the principal issues of the Provincial campaign in an interview with a *Globe* reporter yesterday, and gave many strong reasons why the Government of Sir Oliver Mowat should be sustained.

"Have you any objection to expressing your opinion as to the probable result of the general election?" he was asked.

#### The Issues Before the Electors.

"I cannot predict," said Dr. Grant in reply, "but I have no objection to say what seem to me the issues on which our people should make up their minds before voting. The vote is a very sacred trust, and the man who sells or otherwise dishonors it is a poor creature, like Esau. I am always willing to speak out what is in me when asked on behalf of the public, for a free country requires free speech as the best antidote to secret organizations, local or sectarian appeals, the clamor of faddists or the selfishness of individuals."

"What are, in your opinion, the most important issues before us, so far as Ontario is concerned?"

#### The Man in Charge of the Strong Box.

"The one point that our people everywhere must settle is this: Can we get administrators who are determined that the commandment 'Thou shalt not steal' must be observed? Till that is settled, it is useless to talk about anything else. Provincial rights, school questions, tariff reform, British connection, canals, cables, railways—what is the use of discussing these if we sink into being a nation of thieves? That is what we must become if we tolerate stealing in high places, for what is done at the top is sure to permeate to the bottom. Look at the revelations that we have had since 1891—corruption in so many quarters that we wondered if there was a clean spot anywhere; the people of Quebec robbed that M. Pacaud and his friends might have the joy of exploiting what he termed a gold mine! The people of all the Provinces robbed that the robbers might rule Canada! A recent instance is enough to show how deep and widespread the roots of the malady are, and to show how hard it is for a Government to act, even with good intentions, unless supported by a healthy public opinion. Two worthy gentlemen were convicted and sentenced to gaol. Prison disagreed with them, and they were set free. One is about offering himself as a candidate for Parliament; the other was taken from prison as a conquering hero. In Montreal, fine gentlemen received him at the railway station with cheers, took him to the Windsor and dined and wined him. He, in reply, said not a word about ill-health, but declared that the people would not allow the Government to keep him in prison any longer! When convicts get such treatment, ordinary men will not be much disinclined to be classed among convicts. As we think of the saturnalia that must have existed for a long time before such a state of public morals could become possible, we are forced to ask what might have happened to the richest Province in the Dominion if any easy-going politician had had charge of its strong box. What plunder there was for a gang! We have timber limits worth tens of millions; we could stand a debt of twenty or thirty millions as easily as Quebec. A politician of easy virtue would have lavished these millions on heelers and hangers-on, who, in return, would be enthusiastically voting him a god. Does not this thought throw some light on what we have escaped, and on what we owe to the man who has been in charge of our strong box for