

government which is not impartial is an evil; but a strong government which is impartial, and at the same time able and enlightened, would be a blessing. Towards such a government not jealousy, but confidence and loyalty, would be the rational attitude of those beneath its rule. What the mass of us want is simply a good and responsible administration. That we can ourselves take part in the work of government is an illusion. Before the Ontario Elections, two great party conventions were held. The people flocked to both of them, glad no doubt of an excuse for an excursion, but also full of the sense of political importance: yet, if they had reflected, they might have seen that they were brought there to surrender their electoral powers into the hands of the central wirepuller. This they might have seen, if they had reflected, and they might also have seen that the game of faction was played at their cost. At present, however, it must be owned, there seems to be little chance of their breaking the yoke. Hope that the National Policy would put something into their pockets induced some of them twice to cross the party lines; but the Ontario Elections saw them within their lines again, as resolved as ever to follow "standard bearers," to turn a deaf ear to independent candidates and to read nothing but the campaign literature on their own side. The party conflict combines the excitement of a bloodless battle with that of a lottery in which any active partisan, however humble, may hope some day to draw a prize. It is easy to understand that which reason and patriotism must deplore.

—The Ontario Election was a Dominion battle fought on a Local field: the whole artillery of Ottawa was brought into play, and its fire told heavily on the result. Nor has the Provincial Government any reason to complain: by plunging into the fray at the last Dominion election, it provoked the Dominion Tories to reprisals, and brought the war into its own country; while by identifying Local with Dominion party it overthrew the real rampart of that Provincial independence which it professes so zealously to defend. That the Government would win we fully expected. In men, the Opposition, in spite of the marked pro-