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## THE TIMES.

We all feel that a general election is at hand. The Government has run its course and must shortly make an appeal to the country for a further lease of power. Will it be granted? is the all-absorbing question. Each party appears to be confident as it awaits the general verdict, and each claims to have reasonable ground for its hope. Time alone can tell, but for ourselves we believe the present Government will have another term of office. Not so much on account of its great achievements, or even its well doing, but because the members of the Opposition have failed to make it appear that they are best fitted to govern the country for its good. The last session of Parliament did the Conservatives no service at all, and just as much may be said for the Liberals. Only the Liberals can afford to stand still; the Conservatives must advance in popular esteem to get a majority. The Protection policy has not made much headway the last few months; he would be a bold man who would say it has made converts. And that is about the only line of division. When that is put on one side it is a mere question of men; so that the more able or the more skilful will win. The Conservative leaders outside of the House have not helped the cause of their party. It was a political blunder to have imported Dominion politics into the Quebec elections. Those elections went against the Conservatives, at least, against the De Boucherville Government, which the Conservatives would have it, would be against themselves. It is quite time for Sir John to cry, "Preserve me from my friends."

The Montreal *Gazette* thinks it would puzzle the SPECTATOR to find why there should be another Provincial election if Mr. Joly should be defeated in the Quebec Assembly; it imagines the whole thing is plain—Mr. Joly will resign, and the leader of the other party will be sent for by the Lieutenant-Governor. Not so; as we venture to think. No party could conduct the business of the House having only a majority of two or three; it might be reduced at any time, and the Government defeated by the absence of a few members. And we have yet to find that the Conservatives are united under one leader. For whom would M. Letellier send? What likelihood is there that they would adopt a policy more pleasing to him than that followed by the dismissed Government? Mr. Joly's best policy would be to advise a dissolution and another appeal to the electors. He has a chance of carrying a few more seats yet, and if beaten would be no worse off than before. By another election he has much to gain and nothing to lose. The SPECTATOR is not all puzzled about the matter.

The Protestant Commissioners of Education opened their new High School on Tuesday, 21st inst. The Chairman, Rev. Dr. Jenkins, made a very long address which has more than a passing value, for it reviewed the whole work of the Board since its institution. Mayor Beaudry, who sat on the Chairman's right, was called up by some passages in the address, and we are glad to learn disclaimed any intention on the part of the Council to paralyze the Board by withdrawing, or rather seeking, to withdraw the funds. As a matter of fact the school tax is not under the control of the City Council, but still the Mayor expressed much goodwill towards the cause of education, albeit he counselled caution in expenditure, which indeed he was right in doing. Mr. Ouimet, the Superintendent of Education for the Province, gave an encouraging address in French, as well as in English. Alderman Holland, who may be supposed to represent the Protestant rate-payers, contributed a few words of satisfaction, and Principal Dawson closed by an address advocating the higher education of girls. The Hall is a very suitable one for such a gathering, and looked well filled with visitors and pupils from the High School. Many citizens were present

and clerical representations from all the Protestant congregations in the city—a very formidable array indeed. The visitors were conducted over the building, and were highly satisfied with the arrangements for educational work. Other countries may do as they please, but education for the Protestants of Quebec is the very breath of life—it is the condition of their existence. The safety of the nation, says the old Jewish maxim, is "the breath of the children in the schools."

"Hoity toity—here's a row." We said the other day—on information thought reliable, which we had trusted many times before, and hope to trust again—that Mr. White, editor of the *Gazette*, had given a gold medal to the Christian Brothers' School. The answer came fast and furious that Mr. White had done nothing of the sort, and that the editor of the SPECTATOR had a habit of slander, on which Mr. White would be glad to have the opinion of the congregation at Zion Church. Then out came a letter in the *Gazette* signed "A Conservative," saying that Mr. Bray had a notion that the testimonial to the Rev. James Carmichael by Irish Catholics was a bad thing—that Mr. Bray had promised the use of Zion Church to the Orangemen last year, and then had refused to keep his promise—that if others did as Mr. White had done in giving a medal it would be better than Mr. Bray's ravings, &c. "Much ado about nothing," surely. As the *Gazette* would not publish an answer to "A Conservative," we may say here that Mr. Bray was never asked for the use of Zion Church by the Orangemen last year—never granted the use of it—never broke the promise, consequently. As to the matter of the present to Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Bray never gave an opinion, in public or private. And now for the rest:—What is the matter, dear Mr. White? We did withdraw the statement. We did not understand your first denial to cover all transactions in all kinds of medals, but we gave absolute credence to what was said. And yet the *Gazette* says we lack candour and manliness in not withdrawing it. We said, "For ourselves, we accept the statement that Mr. White did not give a gold medal," &c. Surely that would be enough for ordinary mortals. And again we must tell Mr. White that this raging of his is very uncalled for. Mr. Gladstone has given away prizes at Schools, and Mr. Disraeli used to cultivate the Scotch Universities, and everybody knew and said it was a political move in the one and in the other, but they never talked of being slandered. To call the giving of a medal to a school political bribery or corruption is to talk absolute nonsense. As well call a newspaper article by the same name. Mr. White takes political ground we have never seen taken before. We begin to be frightened at his sublime purity. Only we do hope that so pure a man will not call names. We could do it—but won't.

The Ontario Society of Artists opened its sixth annual exhibition of paintings at Toronto on Monday last. The ceremony was performed and His Excellency the Governor-General, who delivered an excellent, because appropriate speech. After some well-chosen words of congratulation and cheerful prediction, the Earl gave some good and sound advice to young artists, to the effect that they must not expect to command success but by the way of hard labour in preparation. He told them the laws of the French Schools of Art, which keep the student four years at the use of pencil and charcoal, learning to draw. It is a good and hopeful thing, this effort of our chief cities to establish and promote art culture. Our wealthy men should encourage this, and our young Artists should take Earl Dufferin's advice—that is, trust a little to genius, and all to hard work.

The Montreal authorities are awake at last to the fact that they must provide for the preservation of the peace of the city. The police have been reinforced which is a good thing. But still better is the proposition to abolish all party processions, although the Editor of the *True Witness* has imparted the absurd into it by demanding that even the whistling of a party tune shall be made punishable by law. We confess to not knowing one of those beautiful airs, never heard them in fact, but surely we can hardly tell men what they shall whistle in the streets. The tune of "Croppies lie down" may be set to a revival hymn, and in a harmless way a man whistle the air to solemn thoughts. The best thing would be to abolish all processions of every kind as a nuisance. The talk about "offence" and "insult" is childish; let us try and be men, and peaceful at that.