

thrown on that part of the Preamble of the B. N. A. Act which recited that the several Provinces of the Canadas, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, had expressed a desire to be united together. What was to be the upshot of this sudden repudiation of the agreement by one of the (supposed) assenting parties?

The completeness of the success, the utterness of the defeat, was to the outside world rather a source of merriment; and people who wished it to be so soon came to the conclusion that the victors would rest satisfied with having inflicted such condign punishment on their opponents. It was argued that the defeat of a Cabinet Minister, and the winning of 54 out of 57 seats, might satisfy their vindictiveness, especially as the spoils of victory, the political loaves and fishes, and perhaps even a seat or two in the Cabinet, might reasonably be expected to fall to their share.

Immediately after the elections, the few gentlemen who had composed the Provincial Government since July 1st, tendered their resignations to Sir Fenwick Williams, which His Excellency declined to accept on the ground that, as he was to quit the Province in a few weeks, it would be fairer—not to say pleasanter!—to leave the task of forming a new Government to his successor. The selection of Sir Hastings—then, Major-General—Doyle for the office of Lieutenant-Governor had been determined upon several months before the September Elections, and, altered as was the aspect of affairs and stormy as the outlook had suddenly become, the choice proved a singularly happy one. If we cannot unhesitatingly acquiesce in the fulsome laudations lately lavished by a distinguished Prelate upon His Honour, nor quite concur in the exaggerated estimate of his statesmanlike qualities and consummate Executive abilities which his friends (if parting addresses ever speak the truth) entertain, we must yet cordially accord to him credit in full measure for what he did achieve; for the rare tact which he showed in handling

delicate complications; for his unvarying good humour and considerate courtesy, which baffled quarrelsomeness and disarmed hostility; for his candour, which prevented as well as cured many a grievance; and for the promptitude with which he acted on critical occasions. His constitutional preference for the "policy of inaction;" a Gallo-like indifference to the proceedings of those who quarrelled among themselves before his judgment seat; his natural Celtic geniality; even his sorely-ridden hobby of Loyalty—the key-note and ever-recurring refrain of those portions of the speeches with which he may be supposed to have had more immediate concern—all stood him, as we shall see, in good stead. Placed, by no fault of his own, in a position which, from whichever side you looked at it, appeared utterly untenable if his assailants were only in earnest, and to which, if such were the case, it was almost impossible to afford relief, he held it steadily. Repelling with vigour one or two attacks, he was not beguiled by success into attempting to follow up his victory and leaving his intrenchments. Constitutionally to baffle his constitutional advisers; to support a policy which had been condemned at the polls; to maintain a system which it was the especial function of his Ministers to overturn; and to do this without quarrelling with them—for a quarrel would be fatal—this was the problem which General Doyle had to solve. If we say that the absence, rather than the possession, of high statesmanship and great executive ability enabled him to find the solution of this problem, we do not in the least detract from the credit due to him for having done so. If his opponents were vanquished mostly by time and by themselves, they yet were vanquished, and he remained confessedly master of the situation; for although, when he gave up his position, no formal treaty had been signed and no written surrender testified to their discomfiture, it had long been tacitly acknowledged that hostilities had ceased;