

—In Ontario an election approaches. The Opposition is very weak in men, and Provincial jealousy has been somewhat awakened against it by the too imperious language held at the late Conservative convention, as well as by the conduct of the Dominion Government in the matter of the disputed Boundary. The result, therefore, will most likely be what the bye-elections already indicate: the Government will win and the yoke of a dominant connection will be fastened more tightly than ever on the neck of municipal independence. To arraign particular men in this question of Provincial government would not be just: a bad system is bringing forth its fruit. Even those who deem that in national politics Party is desirable or inevitable, will admit that it is an absurdity in Provincial affairs. So far as the business of Ontario is concerned, Mr. Mowat is no more a Liberal than Mr. Meredith, Mr. Meredith is no more a Conservative than Mr. Mowat; if they are party men it is in connection with the Dominion parties in the conflicts of which the Administration of the Province is thus to its great detriment involved. In Ontario it is simply a competition for office between two sets of men. Yet we have all the evils of party government, the sacrifice of conviction to discipline, and the corporate defence of individual maladministration by colleagues in the Cabinet and partisans in the House. An attempt to inquire into the state of any department, however well supported by reasons, would be voted down at once by the majority at the beck of the Government. The representation also suffers: it is taken out of the hands of the people by the Machines, and good local men, who might serve the Province well, are excluded because they are not slaves. In the absence of principle, patronage becomes the party bond; it acquires unmeasured influence and is exercised with a narrow regard for the interest of the holders of power, which is scarcely possible where there is a real division of principle and opinion is the title to preferment. Soon even literary and educational appointments, over which the Government directly or through its partisans has control, will be confined to the following of the Premier. Everything that can be a source of influence is grasped, and while the eyes of the people are following the finger of the Attorney General, pointed in a transport of indig-