ber of the legislature should be returned by a like proportion of the population, and that the actual number entitled to return a representative will be found in the quotient resulting from a division of the numbers of the population by the numbers of the legislature. If so, says Mr. Hare, let the test of election consist in obtaining a number of votes equal to the quotient from however many constituencies they may be gathered, and not a mere majority of votes within one constituency; if a certain number of electors are entitled to return a representative, let any body of electors of the requisite number who may unite their suffrages in favor of any one candidate be allowed to return him as their representative. In other words, instead of limiting each elector's choice to one of the candidates in a local constituency, Mr. Hare would leave him free to vote for any candidate in the whole country. Instead of dividing the population, or electorate, into as many separate constituencies as there are members to be elected, he would permit the electors to group themselves into constituencies. And, instead of allowing a local majority to return a member, he would require that each member should poll a number of votes equal to that requisite to constitute a constituency. These principles may be illustrated by applying them to the Province of Ontario. In that province there are eighty-eight members to be elected; and according to the theory of representation by population, the country should be divided into eighty-eight separate constituencies, each equal in population : thus, supposing the electorate to consist of 88,000 electors, each constituency should contain 1,000 electors, by the votes of a majority of whom the member should be returned. According to the system of Personal Representation, an elector in Sarnia might desire his vote to be recorded for a candidate in Ottawa, or vice versa, and any candidate for whom 1,000 votes had been polled-or more strictly speaking, any candidate for whom one eightyeighth part of the whole of the votes polled in Ontario had been recorded—would be declared duly elected as a member of the The process of Legislative Assembly. election under this system has next<sup>®</sup> to be examined.

It is evident that, with each elector free

to vote for any candidate whom he might prefer, and the test of election consisting in obtaining a definite number of votes, many members might be returned by votes gathered from many different cities and counties. This fact renders necessary the appointment of a Registrar, or returningofficer, for the whole province, whose duties will become apparent as we proceed. At the close of the polls on election-day, each returning-officer would transmit by telegraph to the Registrar a statement of the aggregate number of votes polled in the county, city, or riding, for which he was acting. On receipts of these telegrams, the Registrar would, by adding the several returns together, ascertain the total number of votes polled in the province. He would then divide this total by 88-the number of members to be returned by Ontarioand having found the quotient, would notify each returning-officer that any candidate who had obtained that number of votes should be declared elected. Thus, supposing 88,000 votes to have been polled in all Ontario, any candidate obtaining 1,000 of them would be entitled to be declared elected, as that number would constitute one eighty-eighth part of the poll. Each returning-officer, on receiving this statement of the quota, or number of votes entitling a candidate to election, would proceed to ascertain whether any of the candidates for the constituency in which he was acting had obtained it within his jurisdiction. If it should appear that the quota had been polled for any one of them, the returning-officer would at once declare him to be elected for that constituency; and all votes polled for other candidates, or, in case no candidate had polled the quota within his jurisdiction, all the votes polied in it, he would at once transmit to the Registrar. This would be done by transmitting the voting-papers on which each elector had recorded his vote or ballot, those polled for each candidate being sorted together in separate bundles with the number contained in each bundle, and the name of the candidate for whom they were polled On receipt of these endorsed outside. papers, the Registrar and his clerks would place together all the votes polled for each candidate, and whoever had obtained the quota, he would declare elected. But here would arise a difficulty. In case each

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