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EDITORIAL NOTES.

As the election campaign draws nearer and nearer to its close, the contest becomes proportionately hotter, and the phraseology of the stump-orators approximates more and more nearly to that of the Athanasian creed. "Slangwhanging" is not a lovely word. It is a word "that would have made Quintilian stare and gasp," but it is the only one which aptly indicates the character of the verbal courtesies which are daily, almost hourly, bandied backward and forward between rival speakers from the hustings at the present time. It is consoling to know that another week, at most, will see us to the end of this sort of thing. Verbatim reports of some of the political speeches made in this Province during the last fortnight would furnish very ungenial reading to the author of *The Law of Kindness*.

PERSONS who remember the political campaign of 1878, and the election which took place on the 17th of September in that year, will feel chary of predicting the result of elections where the vote is by ballot. The result of that contest was probably not anticipated by any human being. The Reform party, almost to a man, confidently counted upon Mr. Mackenzie being sustained in his stewardship. Most Conservatives looked for a similar result, and the few who were more sanguine had no wild expectation that the success of their party would be anything like what the event proved. Prognostications about election contests must under ordinary circumstances, be untrustworthy and uncertain. Where the constituencies are numerous, and where the interests involved are exceedingly conflicting, the prediction must

be more dubious still. When to all these conditions is added the fact that the vote is by ballot, anything like a confident forecast is manifestly out of the question. There are persons with whom one meets every day who know all about the matter, and who can calculate to the strictest nicety the extent of Sir John's majority. Their calculations seem to be based on well-ascertained facts, and beyond any sort of peradventure. Yet what sensible person attaches any importance to them? There is no man living to-day whose opinion as to the result of the contest now pending is worth taking into serious account.

THE Ontario Government has been asked to establish a School of Practical Science at Kingston of a similar character to the one in Toronto. The request was ostensibly made for the benefit of the people of the eastern section of this Province, but there is no room for doubt that the scheme originated with the officials of Queen's College, and that it is largely intended to promote the interests of that institution. A prominent member of the deputation, in addressing Mr. Mowat, naively remarked that they would all be satisfied if Principal Grant spoke for them. So the Very Reverend Principal did speak, and his arguments were ingenious and interesting. He thought, for example, that as the Government has offered Queen's College a site worth \$30,000 on condition that that institution should be removed to Toronto, it would evidently be equally economical for the Government to build the College a School of Science in Kingston at a cost of \$20,000 or so, and give them \$10,000 a year to carry it on. Notwithstanding this skilful reasoning, it is to be hoped that Mr. Mowat will not accede to the request made by the deputation,—and this for several reasons. The equipment of the Provincial School of Science in Toronto is quite inadequate to the requirements of the present time. Our best students are compelled to resort to American technological schools to complete their education. It is manifestly more to the advantage of the Province that this institution should be put in a state of thorough efficiency than that another second-rate school should be established. Further, the Government cannot afford to lay out a large sum of money merely to allay the academical jealousy which Queen's College has long shown towards the Provincial University. The next thing we should hear of would be applications from the Western University at London and the proposed new Baptist University at Woodstock for a scientific school in connection with their institutions. And it is difficult to see how their petition could be refused if that of Queen's College be granted. Finally, a theological institution like Queen's is not likely to be a good foster-