

THE "HARP."

HAMILTON, ONT., JUNE, 1882.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

ALL CANADA IS now passing through the excitement of a general election. There is one objectionable feature that has hitherto been strongly marked on these occasions, but which we trust will date its obliteration from the present election, and that is the peculiar manner in which the agents of both political parties and their respective organs, as a rule, approach the Catholic electors. Any honest means of securing support is certainly allowable, but why should there be a special appeal for the "Catholic vote?" Why cannot we be approached on general principles, as inhabitants of Canada, and allowed to form our opinions and cast our votes as we may think best for the good of the country at large? It is painful to hear each political orator, editor, or canvasser boasting how much more than the other his party has done or will do for Catholics, and claiming their support on that account. If we are in possession of all the rights and privileges that justly belong to us, is it not an insult to our intelligence to ask us purely as Catholics to vote for either party? On the other hand, if, after laboring under peculiar disabilities, one government or the other gives us equal rights with our fellow-citizens, what credit can be claimed for an act of simple justice?

When there is a public question at issue antagonistic to our faith and morals, our duty is plain—to demand with a unanimous voice that the obnoxious features be removed, and if not, apply the remedy at

the polls. But when the great questions of the day bear upon the general interests of the country, then we have a perfect right to be Reformers or Conservatives just as we see fit. In the former case we are perfectly able to decide for ourselves, what is best to be done without any aid from the professional politician who knows, little and cares less about our religion; in the latter, the man who approaches us with an appeal to our Catholic sentiments should be treated in the manner that brazen-faced impudence deserves.

Our duty at present is that of citizens of Canada. The interests of this great Dominion are common to all its people irrespective of creed, color or nationality. Its prosperity is the general benefit; its misfortunes the general loss. In a word its weal or woe concerns us all. All its citizens should take pride in the increase of its population, the development of its resources, the extension of its commerce, the activity of its manufactures, the maintenance of law and order, and the preservation of their own rights and privileges. No other motives than these and their kindred should influence Canadians in their choice of government administration, and we trust the day will never come when any other consideration will become necessary.

THE HARP does not support the cry of electing or appointing Catholics to any position merely because they are Catholics.