

writing. An important quality attaching to the verdict of the ballot is, that it is irrevocable. Once given, we cannot recall or modify it, and it is sure to have effect for good or harm. There is, perhaps, no time in our life we hold so much of this wicked little world "in the hollow of our hand," as when we have folded up our ballots on election day. According as our hand, at that moment, is well or ill directed, will the weal or woe of the realm, in a measure, ensue.

It is clear, therefore, that we should take not only a deep interest, but also an intelligent pride, in voting correctly. As you well know, there is nothing more discouraging than to see a mass of human beings, who have opportunities of becoming intelligent, marching, unthinkingly, to the polls, and casting their votes with the same bland indifference with which a toddling child will deposit a five-pound note in the fire, and then stand off to admire the blaze.

THE CANDIDATE.

The selection of a candidate is a thing that should be done with care and deliberation. It is wonderful the facility people sometimes have for turning out candidates at short notice. When a farmer wants to hire a man to make his hay, he will go a long distance to get a person of the right material. When a business man wants a clerk or a book-keeper, he will take every precaution to satisfy himself as to the character, aptitude, habit and general "get-up" of his man before he employs him. If we want a teacher in one of our commonest Common Schools, we require the production of satisfactory references and credentials as a condition precedent to his engagement. And,—coming from the sublime to the ridiculous,—some men will travel thousands of miles to secure a sleek and suitable horse. Yet we occasionally witness the spectacle of trumped-up gentlemen, of whom but little is known—by themselves or others—posing, and accepted without any preliminary inquiry, as candidates for the highest positions in the gift of the people. This is not exactly *comme il faut*. The man chosen to represent us in Parliament, or even aspiring to represent us, should reflect in