

appears to be thrown by the arrangements made during the Premier's absence on the dark question of the succession. It is a great mistake, as we venture to think, to imagine that Canadian parties have, like English parties, a life in themselves, independent of the personal ascendancy of their leaders, and that when Sir John Macdonald resigns, the Conservatives will have to cry *Le Roi est Mort, Vive le Roi!* The only Conservative platform is N. P., the monopoly of which seems not unlikely to be lost; the support of the priest party in Quebec is a source of weakness quite as much as of strength; and if the question of the leadership is to be comfortably settled, remarkable self-abnegation and regard for discipline must be displayed. There is a gleam of hope for National Government as well as for National Policy. Sir John Macdonald, therefore, in clinging to the helm, is acting more in the interest of his friends than in his own. In the meantime, the great organ of the Reform, not of the Liberal, party, as it is unprovided with principles, and there is at present a dearth of the scandals which are its familiar food, is reduced to a precarious subsistence on the maladies of its opponents. It joyfully proclaimed that Sir John Macdonald was suffering from Bright's disease; but, that pleasant dream being dispelled, it is compelled to fall back, in a tone of subdued hope, on a disease which makes less short work of the wicked. It must almost regret that it pronounced Sir Charles Tupper's illness a feint, since it is thereby precluded from visiting the iniquities of that human fiend with a creeping palsy or a cancer in the stomach. In Mr. Pope's constitution, however, the seeds of decay have happily been observed, and the faithful may hope that a similar mercy will soon be vouchsafed them in the case of Sir Charles Tupper. What is the policy of the Liberal leader, who has superseded the nominees of the *Globe*, and whom the *Globe* would at once strike if it dared, we cannot at present say, but we may be sure that it is something better than climbing to power on the coffins of opponents.