

St. Vincent, in spite of the protests of their Municipal Councils and of the County Council, placed where they did not want to be? As a mere matter of arrangement it can have made no difference to Mr. Mowat in which Riding these Townships were placed. Why then should he have persisted in reversing their position, and placing each where the other desired to be? If public opinion in Cornwall—probably a delicate euphemism for the personal pressure of the sitting member—stayed the Premier's hand, it ought certainly to have had superior weight in the case of Grey. Is it possible that in the distinction there lurks a motive which does not appear upon the surface, and that the ghoul of party demanded a departure from the line of impartial justice? Why, again, was the original scheme of grouping Townships with Niagara abandoned? There were many reasons, which will readily occur to the student of Canadian history, why the old town should have kept its place in the roll of constituencies, even if its electorate had been swamped by that of the adjacent Townships. If Cornwall was preserved because one righteous man was found to press its claims, why should popular opinion count for nothing in Niagara? The excuse that the Premier could find no constituency in the East to which the member taken from Cornwall could be given, is an unsatisfactory one. It is surely not laid down, as a fixed principle of public policy, that because a representative now sits for Cornwall, one shall sit for it, like Theseus, eternally. If the east loses in the race, the west should be the gainer, unless we intend to perpetuate the wretched localism which caused nearly all our political difficulties from 1851 to 1867. In Mr. Mowat's personal integrity and honesty of purpose we have unshaken confidence, but we have none at all in the existing system of party government, and the thought forces itself upon supporters of the Government—it requires no forcing on its opponents—that Cornwall was spared to

save a party member, and Niagara sacrificed to remove an opponent. The *Globe* makes great professions of a desire to see a strong and effective Opposition. We are told that party government is not complete without it. Hobbes has been improved upon. He declared war to be the natural element of primitive man; party declares it to be the normal state of the politician at the noon-tide of civilization. If this theory be correct, we are in sore need of an Opposition in Ontario. Anything less edifying than the spectacle presented by the loose organization scattered about in the benches to the Speaker's left, it would not be easy to imagine. There are men of respectable talent on that side, but they are for the most part mute images of despair. As represented in debate, the Opposition appears to be a fortuitous concourse of atoms, without concerted aim, without defined principles, without eloquence, without skill—legislative incapables wandering half-possessed among the tombs in the grave-yard of their party. But if we must have a good Opposition, the way to it does not lie in the direction taken by the Government party. There is something like hypocrisy, therefore, in their affected anxiety in this matter. If not, why cut the ground from under the feet of one opponent by disfranchising Niagara, and send the Treasurer to defeat, if possible, another? For it must not be forgotten that these two gentlemen have had the advantage of official experience, and are among the most respectable members of their party.

There is no necessity of referring to other measures, for measures have not been the prominent feature of the Session. *Le roi s'amuse*—the House was diverting itself with the clumsy gambolling of Investigation Committees. The Model Farm Inquiry is not a savoury subject, although to some people it would appear to have been so. We have not a high opinion of the Commissioner of Agriculture as an administrator, but it is impossible not to feel some sympa-