

Conservatives; and yet, on no other theory will this taunt, or whatever else it may be called, bear a moment's examination. That something of the kind was attempted at Truro, at the Reform pic-nic, is evident from the 'vociferous and thundering No!' of which the Opposition journals exultingly speak. That, however, may be a piece of characteristic party exaggeration at the expense of the party's good name; if they did not approve of the Premier's policy the recalcitrants should have stayed at home or preserved silence. The pic-nic was a party, not a public, demonstration.

But it is further alleged that both in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia these meetings were a failure. People are so used to the party colouring given to matters of this sort by both sides, that this might be uncredited if it merely rested on the *ex parte* statements of the Opposition press. But there is further evidence which, although of a negative character, is certainly corroborative: we refer to the very cursory references to Mr. Mackenzie's excursion in the Government papers. After the first telegrams announcing the Premier's progress, little or nothing more was said about it; nor have they ventured to deny the substantial truth of their opponents' statements. It may be taken for granted, therefore, that these statements are, in the main, correct. Nor is it surprising that this should have been the case. The Dominion is just now in the enjoyment of political repose; there is a grateful lull, which has not yet been disturbed in the older Provinces, and will remain unbroken until the new series of Conservative pic-nics begins. Even the party journals have the good taste to give politics a wide berth almost wholly. The Labour and Protection questions, the Dunkin Act, and the interminable Orange question, furnish the staple productions of the editorial pen at present. There is no reason to suppose that the truce has not extended to the Maritime Provinces. Indeed, for some time past, Dominion politics have attracted little attention amongst them, as compared with local questions which touch them more nearly. The coal and fishery interests alone are matters of Dominion concern; on the first, parties are divided, and the other is being attended to or the reverse by the Commission. In the next place, there can be little doubt that the

growing disgust for party squabbles has extended to the people on the sea-board. They have discovered, and are beginning to complain, as the people of Ontario do, that their material interests are made the shuttlecock of party, and, if they are not neglected altogether, serve only to amuse our public men, when they are not abusing one another, and heaping scandal upon scandal. On the whole it appears to us that the supineness of the Lower Province people is no proof of Mr. Mackenzie's unpopularity; but simply seasonable, and an evidence of their good sense. It is said that Sir John Macdonald and Dr. Tupper would have met with a different reception. It may be so, though we doubt it; and it must not be forgotten that Dr. Tupper is upon his 'native heath' there, and Sir John's popularity might get him a crowd, if he visited the chief cities and ventured to breathe the stifling and sudorific atmosphere of closely-packed halls. Both he and the Premier were far too wise to make that experiment in the middle of August. The game of politics is not worth so great a sacrifice at their hands, when they need rest and recuperation.

There is a dawn of hope for Dominion politics in the rumoured return to public life of the Hon. Mr. Tilley and Sir Alexander Galt. The Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick bears an honorable reputation for ability and probity, and he has been out of Parliament during its worst period. Bringing with him some of the dignity and judicial impartiality acquired in his high office, he is not likely to be a strong party man, and he is sure not to be a violent or unscrupulous one. From Sir Alexander Galt we have a right to expect even more than this. Independent in spirit and opinion, he has been forced out of alliance with one party, without taking refuge in another. He is a warm friend of National interests, and when they are advocated by him on the floor of Parliament, they will cease to be the plaything of party and stand honestly and squarely upon their merits. The financial and political knowledge and experience he will bring with him cannot fail to be of sterling value, and his genial temper must go far to improve and elevate the wretched tone at which our party politics are unhappily