

# THE BYSTANDER.

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MR. LAURIER came to see whether Ontario Liberalism would accept a leader opposed to Equal Rights. The answer seems to have been decisive, and the more so as Mr. Laurier is and deserves to be personally most acceptable. Unless the Liberal Party soon puts intrigue under hatches and calls principle to the helm, it will be in danger of going on the rocks. If the result of the Rielite intrigue will not cure Liberals of listening to bad advice what will? Let them remember that the same men who drew her into that intrigue and who are now trying to set them against Equal Right also threw cold water at first on Reciprocity, so that under this guidance they would have been left absolutely without a policy at all except that of mere huckstering for votes. It is pretty evident, from the success of the Equal Rights' meetings recently at Toronto and Montreal, that the feeling is not dying out, that it is settling down into conviction, and that the parties will have to reckon with it at the polls. The lineaments even of a new party begin to show themselves, if leaders could be found. In both parties there is a strong revolt, let them affect to talk lightly of it as they may. The Conservative Machine perhaps stands the strain better than its rival, because it is the more strongly organized, and its managers have the patronage and the appropriations in their hands. The Richelieu election seems to show that even in his own Province the Liberal leader is weak and that the priest party give to Sir John Macdonald, as Mr. Chapleau says they ought, the chief credit