

The Canadian Spectator.

VOL. I., No. 20.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1878.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

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THE TIMES.

The Provincial Parliament of Quebec will soon meet and the parties will try their strength, probably, over the election of a Speaker. Each side claims a majority, and which is right will only be decided when the vote is taken. As far as we can judge they are pretty evenly balanced, too evenly for the peaceful and prosperous working of Government; and too evenly, it is said, to allow the ordinary bribery to take full effect. Still, there must be a few "on the fence," and it will depend on the side to which they incline at the last moment. If the Conservatives follow the advice of the *Montreal Gazette*, they will at once pass a vote of censure on the Joly Government—that is, on the Lieutenant-Governor, which must result in an immediate dissolution and another appeal to the electors, which we venture to say will be a blunder. The Conservative party is not organized, having neither a recognized head nor a declared policy, and if another election be brought about, it is more than probable that M. Joly will carry a larger number of constituencies than in the last election. He has had no opportunity of forfeiting the confidence reposed in him; on the contrary, his bearing has been judicious and full of promise, while the caucus of Conservatives held in Montreal the other day, gave evidence, to those who needed it, that they are determined to make the Province serve the ends of Dominion party politics. Not content with having tried to influence the Provincial elections in the interests of the party, they are now making an effort to turn the politicians at Quebec into tools for the politicians at Ottawa. If another election be forced upon us we hope the electors will resent this. The *Gazette* might take a hint and be a little more prudent. It was a mistake to import Dominion politics into the Provincial election, and he who proclaimed that if the Liberals won, a general election would take place in a fortnight, was not even the grandson of a prophet.

Toronto has rejoiced once again in the presence of Sir John A. Macdonald, who, it must be allowed, is the first of all Canadians, and who in fifty years from now will be more appreciated than he is to-day. Sir John possesses all the qualities of a statesman; and taking count of the raw stuff he has had to work up into fashion, he has done some good and lasting labour: but Sir John has also a lively fancy, and the other day that fancy ran away with his sober judgment, and made him say to the citizens of Toronto that "he believed the people would rise in their might at the coming election and sweep jobbery, corruption and incapacity into one common ruin." That is a hard saying—who can hear it? Sir John being a student of history must be more or less of a prophet, and if his faith shall only bring forth just and great works in the people, then indeed hard times are at hand for our politicians. The picture is fine. In the foreground a heaving, seething, chaotic mass of jobbery, bribery and corruption, which Sir John and Mr. Mackenzie are vainly endeavouring to reduce to order. The background black and thunderous, shooting occasional fire; the blackness rolls on, the thunder grows louder, and then the flood's wild rush on the land—that is, a general election—the waters rise, cover the Quebec Liberals, also the Ontario Liberals, also all Liberals to the last mountain of their might; and then only the Conservative Ark floating majestically on the waste of waters; then a dove sent out (say Mr. White) in search of some green thing (say a constituency) to rest upon; subsidence of the waters; stranding of the Ark; coming forth of the family of Noah and—the rest that may remain when all jobbery and corruption and incapacity are swept away; coming forth of—only a few couples of creeping things. It is frightful to contemplate. Oh! Sir John, please don't induce the people to rise in their might and sweep away all the things you mentioned. The land would be forsaken. Beg them to

leave us, at least, the *Globe* as a paper to read, and an occasional *Witness*; and, if they would let us, we should be glad to keep Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Blake and yourself, and a few other friends.

The Montreal City Councillors have shown that while one-half the taxes are paid by Protestants, two-thirds of the nationality of the Police is Catholic. If the Catholic population is poorer than the Protestants, we have no objection to the classification; but we do dissent from the doctrine endeavoured to be enforced, that Protestant citizens shall not meet for amusement, concert, ball or other recreation, and when threatened with violence shall not be protected, *when they pay half the taxes*. Alderman Donovan has set an example of rampant bigotry from his place in the Council, rarely met with, and the *Herald*, who ought to know, as the Alderman is the Government nominee on the Harbour Board, calls him a "civic firebrand," and says, "One thing is quite certain, and that is that by his behaviour, and the lack of judgment—not to say worse—Mr. Donovan has shewn himself quite unfit for any position of public trust." Will the Government act on what their organ in this city considers right? The *Gazette* says he is a type of the very worst class of the community, but it then says Alderman Clendinneng's reply was in quite as bad taste, from which, we think, at least the Protestant community will totally differ. When ultra irritating and insulting speeches like Mr. Donovan's are made from public and official places, they should be answered, and Alderman Clendinneng expressed views which if carried out would ensure justice and protection to all alike. If the answer had not been given, the class of which the *Gazette* considers Alderman Donovan a "type" would have been jubilant, and an impetus given to their actions, which the city is bound by its best interests to prevent.

The faithful of Scotland have much tribulation through the burden of heresy that is laid upon them. The United Presbyterian Presbytery of Glasgow has called Mr. Ferguson to account on the 8th ult. Mr. Ferguson seemed not at all afraid, but made a long statement setting forth his objections to the relevancy of the libel which had been served upon him; and although he had no wish to be separated from the church, of which he had so long been a member, he was under duty to say that the whole prosecution was one huge irregularity. The Free Synod of Aberdeen has also uttered its voice, and to the effect that the finding of the Presbytery in condemnation of Professor Smith was wrong. All this seems to tell that a new era has dawned upon the ecclesiasticism of Scotland. Mr. Ferguson said, what a great many have long felt, that the Confession of Faith is a "fetter to thought," and "an engine of spiritual oppression." The matter is not decided, but when to all that is added the formal establishment of Roman Catholicism in the land again, it will be seen that our Scottish friends have excitement enough to live well upon.

The members of the Imperial Government are constant in their assurances of their desire for peace, and yet while negotiations are in progress they are taking the most active measures in preparations for war and incurring a vast expenditure only exceeded by war itself. Two members of the Government, in whom the nation reposed confidence, have severed their connection from the Ministry; while they were in the Cabinet the people knew that every means which could avert war would be employed. Now we appear to be advancing step by step to a point where war appears inevitable and peace impossible. Schouvaloff's mission to St. Petersburg has not caused England to relax for one moment her gigantic preparations. The Queen is reviewing the troops, as 25 years ago she reviewed the fleet, at Spithead. Without an ally, with a divided England, and social disorders in the North, with Scotland, Ireland and Wales almost entirely hostile to the Ministry, they possess a large majority in the House of Commons which is ready to follow the bidding of their Tory leaders, and vote money and men for an object as utterly unnecessary as the "Crimean war," which is everywhere admitted now to have been a great mistake and blunder, if not a crime, and the results of which have long since been swept away. It is cheering in the midst of even such a black outlook to see a speck of light in the misty clouds, and we are glad to find that great monitor, which is no where more powerful than in England—public opinion—has been roused, and its potent voice is on the right side.