

THE BYSTANDER.

MAY, 1880.

AT Ottawa three weeks were wasted in an altercation, mis-called a debate, about the Budget. Utterly wasted they were, for not one of the speakers attempted to give a fair account of the results of the N. P. in his own district. It was a mere series of party tirades on both sides. As the first word was uttered, Truth waved her wing to alight in that Hall no more. In a little Working Man's paper published at Toronto, which lies before us, there is a dialogue of three working men on the N. P., which from the working-man's point of view contains more sense in a few lines than was uttered in three weeks in the House of Commons. "I'm willing to give it time, though I must say I thought wages would have gone up"—is about all that there is really to be said at present. The deficit is partly filled. What the effects of the new system on industry will be, setting aside such casual advantages as the harvest of last year, remains yet to be seen. That the good done must be very limited, we know. A tariff which is framed with a view of doing justice to our own industries is an improvement on one which was not, and the government which framed it will, in that respect, be commended by all who hold that in commercial matters, as well as in others, it is the special duty of a government to protect the interests of its own citizens. But no man of sense imagines that prosperity can be created by an increase of taxation.