

power of self-government, and superior to the State. Religious orders, making such pretensions as these, and all others in France, are to publish their rules of association, and furnish guarantees that their funds will not be applied to purposes which they do not avow. Of course the Pope will thunder against the new French law of religious associations; but in these days the thunders of the Vatican are not seriously heeded; they do not carry with them any penalties which can be enforced except that of excommunication, and excommunication of President and Legislators would not carry with it the old penalty of separation from the rest of mankind; words to this effect might be used, but they would no longer have their old-time effect. We by no means undertake to guarantee that this new French law of religious associations is in all respects just, equitable and fair.

Ottawa, in its corporate capacity, is experiencing the unpleasantness of the alternative of not only being, but which is far worse, letting strangers see that she is, out at the elbows, at a time when it is necessary to make a good appearance before royalty. Without yet attempting to be another Washington, the capital city finds that a royal visit calls for some expenditure; and the grave question arose how is that \$6,000 to be covered? The Citizen answers: "The council is in the anomalous position of authorizing the expenditure of \$6,000, and subsequently passing a by-law which empowers and directs its employees to veto the payment of the liabilities incurred." One alderman opposed any reception grant, under the circumstances; the grant was made, but under the new by-law cannot be paid till there are funds. How long will that be?

THE NOVA SCOTIA ELECTIONS.

The result of the elections in Nova Scotia is a greater surprise than was that of the Province of Quebec. Out of thirty-eight members, the Conservatives secured only two. This points to some cause or causes which have proved to be almost universal in action. Let us congratulate ourselves that the result is not due to the operation of sectional or race feeling; even the author of *Une Colonie Feodale en Amerique*, with all his ingenuity, could not claim it as a race victory, as the results of the last election in the province of Quebec were generally thought to be. Some misgivings on this latter question may well be felt, in view of the result in Nova Scotia. As to the two political parties, we are not concerned to find reasons for the all but complete victory of one over the other. The defeated party attributes the disaster it has sustained in part to its own deficiencies in the want of preparation, and to the union of the Local and Federal Governments in the contests; a union which has been witnessed before without producing a similar result. In the early days of Confederation, Mr. Blake used to thunder against the union of the Federal and Local Governments in elections; but then it was the enemy that was united. It would be better if the Federal Government should remain neutral in provincial elections, and that the provinces should reciprocate; but the history of the United States, which here throws side-light on the working of our constitution, forbids the hope that this

attitude of the two can ever be looked for. In Canada what may be called innate conservatism, unrelated to party, is peculiarly strong. In England, the popular tide, as shown in by-elections, generally runs against the Government; here it runs the other way; and when two governments unite, the Opposition has a hard task to perform. In Nova Scotia, the Opposition was singularly unequal to the task.

THE MONTREAL HARBOR EMBROGLIO.

Mr. Tarte, for reasons of his own, refuses to make an enquiry into the rumor to which he had himself lent voice, that \$20,000 had been offered to the Montreal Harbor Commissioners, or some of them, to agree to give Mr. Jamieson the elevator contract. Mr. Tarte, it seems, claims that his information came from the inside, that is, from a member of the Board; and he so told the Board secretary, Mr. Seath. If Mr. Tarte's informant told this in good faith, he is in a position to offer evidence. If the member of the commission who put Mr. Tarte on his guard be known, the commission is now in a position to investigate; if he is not known, he ought now to declare himself; if he fails to do so, Mr. Tarte should divulge the name. After waiting a reasonable time for Mr. Tarte's informant to declare himself, the Board of Harbor Commissioners should call upon Mr. Tarte for the name. In such matters there can be no confidential communications, except among accomplices.

The whole of the Harbor Commissioners have denied Mr. Tarte's statement; but that, if Mr. Tarte simply reports what he was told, must be with regard to some one of them, merely a plea of not guilty. It is due to the majority of the Board, perhaps to the whole of them, that the matter should be investigated. According to the story, it does not follow that anyone received a bribe; the charge is that \$20,000 was offered as a bribe to induce the Board to agree to the contract, which Mr. Jamieson was desirous of entering into. As to the probability of bribing the whole Board of Commissioners, that is quite incredible, ludicrously so; there are men on it whom no bribe could reach, and for anything that is shown this may be true of the whole of them. But the general public, who advance the money for the elevator, have a right to know all about it. Mr. Tarte, believing as he did that a large amount had been offered as a bribe, was bound to take steps to ascertain the truth of the report; and if on adequate evidence he found that offers of bribes have been made, whether accepted or not, he would have been justified in vetoing the contract, and, indeed, it would have been his duty to do so. Having once lent his voice to the charge, by repeating it aloud, it was his plain duty to persons whom the accusation might strike, though they were not specifically named, to take all possible means of establishing the facts. Though the commission could make an enquiry, it was not in as good a position to do so as the Minister; for the charge was indefinitely against some of its own members, not named or distinguished from the rest; and to a certain extent it would be forced into the anomalous position of trying its own case. As to other possible causes for rejecting the contract, the experts of the Public Works Department are best able to say