

vincial matters, was truly the main point at issue. But they have failed, utterly failed to establish that fact. Some of our Conservative leaders, some of the Conservative papers offered them, I am aware, to fight the electoral battle on that score, but they refused to take up the gauntlet thus thrown to them. The speeches of the Ontario First Minister, the Hon. Mr. Mowat, and the articles of the *Globe*, the *Hamilton Times*, and other leading Liberal papers which were quoted the other day by the hon. member for Hamilton, fully demonstrate that they refused to engage in the contest on that ground; and they were for once wise men in their generation, for they knew perfectly well that the verdict rendered a few months previous would remain unchanged; that an intelligent people like the people of Ontario would not stultify themselves by condemning, after a short interval, a policy which was then but in embryo, which has just been voted by Parliament, which had not even a month's trial, and which they had approved by an overwhelming majority, after the most mature deliberation ever given to any public question at the polls. If the National Policy has influenced, to a small extent, the last elections of Ontario, there is one question which, I am sorry to state, had much to do with them on the Liberal side, a question which the leaders of that party would not dare to introduce in this House. I had been led to believe, Mr. Speaker, by the public utterances of the hon. leader of the Opposition, that the days had passed when my fellow-countrymen would be traduced, and sneered at by his party. In fact, not very long ago, I had the pleasure to read some very graceful compliments paid to my race by that hon. gentleman, in a speech delivered in Scotland the land of his birth, where he received such a gratifying welcome—and I was under the impression that his party would cease to stir up the national prejudices of one portion of the people against the other; that the bugbear of French domination, for instance, of which we heard so much in the past, which had been worked up so unfairly, and so unscrupulously, to the prejudice of our Conservative allies in Ontario, was used up, and would never be invoked again, even for electoral purposes. But, Sir, that was but a delusion, which recent events

have entirely dispelled. In the absence of better argument, in their desperation, in their thirst for power, the Liberal party resuscitated that very bugbear of French domination, to speculate on the worst prejudices of the people; and, I regret to say, it met with an ill-deserved success in some quarters. To remove any doubt on this point, I will quote a few extracts from different issues of the *Globe*, which will simply suffice to illustrate the unfair measures resorted to by the Liberal party, to delude the electoral body of Ontario. The *Globe* said, on the 24th May, 1879:

"When Ontario joined the Confederation, her supposition was, by doing so, she had escaped from Lower Canadian domination. The present subservience of the Government to Quebec Conservatives throws a doubt on this and on our future position, and brings up the whole subject again."

In another article, on the same day:

"The Tories follow the lead of their precious chieftain and would put Ontario, which Province they know they cannot either cheat or control, back again under the rule of the Frenchmen, whom Sir John can humbug and swindle if he cannot control."

On the 26th May:

"The people will show by their votes, on the 5th of June, that this Province is not to be tamely cheated of its due, either because Sir John A. Macdonald is again under the thumb of his Quebec followers, or because he longs for fat things to present to the hungry office-seekers who have yet to be rewarded from the plunder acquired by the late elections."

In another article, published on the following day, and written in that same liberal-minded spirit, the French supporters of the Government are styled, in that felicitous, in that delicate language peculiar to the *Globe*, "the French tail of Sir John A. Macdonald." Well, Sir, if we are but a tail, we have at least the consolation of being the tail of an illustrious statesman, who but recently enjoyed the unprecedented honour, for a colonist, to be admitted into the Privy Council of Her Majesty the Queen. We have at least the consolation of knowing that our tail is longer than the whole—I will not say tail,—but the whole following of Mr. George Brown in this House, which has been rather shortened by the last elections. And we have this further consolation of knowing that the so-called French tail of this Government would never have sub-