

tion is whether he will be able to set himself free enough from the shackles of Ottawa. Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Mowat use the Catholic vote by turns and each on pretty much the same terms. This arrangement, Sir John Macdonald, caring probably little for Ontario and seeing that Mr. Mowat differs on no essential question from himself, is evidently unwilling to disturb. His personal organ has been pouring hot shot, or rather hot mud, into the section of Liberals, to a junction with whom on the Equal Rights question Mr. Meredith must look for help to win the battle; and in the conventions his influence is apparently being used in favour of Machine candidates who are opposed to Mr. Meredith's new departure. Mr. Meredith's position is very difficult; his bearing is still not free from embarrassment; his opponent has the advantage of long possession of power; and abundant experience shows that the party shibboleth usually prevails over any principle whatever. Still there will be a fight for a principle if Mr. Meredith stands firm.

—The approach of the elections brings before our minds the effect likely to be produced on the calibre of our legislatures by the set of population to the cities, combined with the growth of localism in elections. Localism is one of the many proofs that since the great extensions of the franchise political power has descended to lower and narrower minds. It is completely dominant in the States, so that the most illustrious man if he happens to live in a congressional district where the other party has a majority is absolutely excluded from public life. It is fast becoming dominant here, though the party leaders, connection with whom may bring patronage to the locality, still in a few cases find seats in constituencies where they do not reside. Even in England it is fast gaining ground. The days are gone by when any great English constituency was glad to elect a distinguished man whether he were resident or not, and the House of Commons was thus