

prove. For all the arts of party management, he has a first-rate tutor in front of him. Whatever may be the ends of the Prince of Darkness, there can be no doubt that he is skilful in the choice of means. He exercises forecast in the choice of his line of action; he studies men, though perhaps too much on the weak side; he is enabled by the knowledge which he thus acquires to speak not to the reporters, but for votes: and he makes it felt that he will always stand by his friends and be loyal under all circumstances to the party cause. Standing by his friends is in fact a habit which he carries to excess, certainly as regards the public interest, probably as regards his own; and the legal maxim *noscitur a sociis* applied to his connections might bear hard on him. Yet the reputation of being a true and gallant comrade is, in a general way, as useful a point of character as a party leader can possess.

Everything portends that Mr. Blake will soon be tried not only as the leader of a party, but as the head of a government. The growing tendency of Administrations to die with Parliaments is not likely to be reversed at our next general election. The Government has been successful, by its financial measures, in raising the revenue to the level of expenditure; at the same time, it is increasing the expenditure and adding to the pile of debt. The manufacturers are pleased with the National Policy, and expect from it more than it will give them: but the people in general groan under the enhanced expense of housekeeping, which all additions to taxation, let their author be never so great a conjuror, must entail. Election promises and hopes can never be fulfilled; disappointment turns to resentment, and from a multitude of causes malcontents and enemies gather along the path even of the most adroit of Ministers. The mere ebb of the tidal wave raised by the attraction of the National Policy in 1879, is sufficient to sweep back constituencies then won by narrow majorities from the party to which they usually belong. It can hardly be doubted that if a General Election were now to take place, many seats in Ontario and still more in the Lower Provinces would be lost by the Ministerialists. But the