

ALTHOUGH the Provincial elections are over and done with, the voice of the party press is still for war. The reason is not far to seek. The general opinion among Reformers seems to be that a dissolution of the Dominion Parliament is imminent, and that we are on the verge of a general election for the House of Commons. They are therefore desirous of keeping Mr. Mowat's triumph well before the people, and of making the most of the weak points of the losing side. Conservatives, on the other hand, are smarting under the sense of a crushing defeat, and the asperities of the campaign are yet fresh in their memories. We need not look for much relief from the strain until the great agony is over.

At the time of this present writing there has been no dissolution, though rumours are rife to the effect that it will have taken place before the day closes. Those who harp the loudest on this string are not a whit better informed than their neighbours. It is difficult to see what purpose the Government can hope to serve in bringing on the turmoil of an election at the present time, unless it be a simple desire to be relieved from suspense. So far as a dispassionate mind can judge, the odds are very much against them just now, and the future offers small inducement for delay; but Sir John Macdonald has always had strong staying powers, and has shown himself trustful of his stars.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER is now on his way to Canada, ostensibly to confer with his leader as to the political situation. It seems to be generally understood that he is to stay here, and that he will accept an important office in the Government. Sir Charles's past has not been of a kind to inspire the highest confidence in his future, but he is unquestionably a strong man, more especially on the stump, and in his native province he is a formidable factor for his opponents to deal with. His health is said to have been completely restored by his residence abroad, and should he take the field in the ensuing campaign we may look out for some interesting exchanges of left-hand compliments between him and Sir Richard Cartwright. Both gentlemen have great gifts in the way of vituperation, and the atmosphere will be electric wherever they may happen to be brought into contact.

It seems to be generally understood that Europe is on the verge of a tremendous conflict—a conflict more widespread and momentous than any which has taken place there since the Crimean war. Russia and Austria have hitherto been regarded as the prime factors in the approaching struggle, but they now count merely for two pieces on the board. France and Germany must inevitably be involved, and that Turkey will have her say in the matter is a foregone conclusion. Italy is also pretty certain to be dragged in. Of deeper significance to us is the fact that Great Britain cannot hope to keep clear of the struggle. There seems but too good reason to fear that the whole European continent is likely to be divided into two formidable camps, and that hostilities cannot well be postponed beyond the approaching spring. The impending war-cloud may haply pass by, but

it would be hoping against hope to look for a successful solution of the many complicated difficulties which stare the nations in the face. Tennyson may as well leave Locksley Hall alone, and revert to "the long, long canker of peace" which soured his digestion more than thirty years ago.

THE sudden death of Lord Idlesleigh from heart disease removes from English politics a superlatively respectable, but by no means an overtowering figure. Such spurs as he had he won as Sir Stafford Northcote, the Commoner, and he had barely had time to become accustomed to the atmosphere of the House of Lords ere he succumbed to the malady which had long overshadowed him. Sir Stafford was an eminently useful, hard-working man, who had a high sense of the responsibilities of his position, and was held in high esteem, not only by those of his own political complexion, but also by his opponents. For nine months back he has been rendered exceedingly uncomfortable by the necessity of coming into frequent official contact with Lord Randolph Churchill, for whose character of political opinions he had not a very moderate degree of respect. Since Sir Randolph's resignation he has been practically crowded out of the ministry. His malady was one especially susceptible to mental influences, and it is extremely probable that his death has been hastened by the worry incidental to his position. His friends and relations will probably mentally hold Salisbury, as well as Lord Randolph Churchill responsible, to some extent, for the calamity which has come upon them.

No sojourner in Canada ever left behind him a greater number of personal friends on leaving our shores than did Lord Dufferin, and there are more than a few Canadians who will be sorry to hear that the climate of India has pretty nearly done its work upon his constitution, inasmuch that it is very doubtful whether he will be able to complete his term of office as Viceroy. It is no secret that he is far from being a wealthy man for one occupying so elevated a position, and that his official income is a matter of the greatest moment to him. He expresses his determination to either stay out his term or die in harness, but his physicians declare that should he become much worse than he has been for some months past he will at least be compelled to relinquish his official duties, and such a relinquishment would doubtless be followed by his immediate return to a less trying climate. Lord Dufferin has long been recognized by English statesmen of both parties as one of the ablest of Her Majesty's servants of the second rank. When he passes to his rest it may truly be said of him, as was said nearly a quarter of a century ago upon the death of Lord Elgin: "Happy are the country and the age in which such men are to be found in the second rank, and are content to be there."

OWING to the difficulties and drawbacks inseparable from the issue of a first number, it has been found necessary to cancel a good many editorial notes, as well as a quantity of other important matter. In future numbers increased space will be allotted to the more interesting features of the paper, and there will be greater variety in the general contents.