

THE BYSTANDER.

JULY, 1890.

THE Ontario Election went as we said it would go and, we believe, for the reasons which we gave. Mr. Meredith had not at his side a single man possessed as an administrator of public confidence. His right and left bower had been tried in the last session and had failed. He took up Equal Rights too late and as the people thought too obviously with a view to the election. At the same time he incurred in full measure the hostility of the Roman Catholic clergy and gave his opponents the full benefit of their influence. He had no other cry, the Mowat Government not having laid itself open to any special charge. Ottawa knifed him, yet he had to move under the restraint and to carry the odium of the connection as well as to drag the weight of its local organ. The position which he undertook to storm had been fortified by the assiduous exercise of patronage, including the sinister licensing power, by gerrymandering, and all the other influences which a party in office commands, for eighteen years. If we add that he is himself rather too open-minded and too amiable for party leadership, we shall be saying what from our point of view is not disparagement but praise.

Mr. Meredith has now to choose his course. He can hardly doubt that there is an end of the old donkey-engine which he was set to work in Ontario in the interest of a party at Ottawa, and indirectly in the interest of Quebec, by whose support the party at Ottawa is kept in power. His task has in fact been to hold Ontario down while Quebec plucked her, and this can