

each other with the rancour of civil war. Neither the Boundary Question, nor that of the Streams Bill, was political, apart from the feeling excited about them : the first was a question of mixed law and history ; the second was a question about the principles of jurisprudence. On either Lord Salisbury might have differed from Sir Stafford Northcote and agreed with Mr. Gladstone or Prince Krapotkine. Power and patronage were the real objects, and in the temper which a struggle for such prizes engenders, the battle was carried on. For six weeks we had a carnival of mutual vituperation from which regard for truth and justice was banished on both sides. Neither speakers nor writers are to blame, because they are all merely playing the part assigned them by the system, as a lawyer does in wrangling for victory, or a soldier in firing upon the foe. But there can be no doubt as to the effect of such a bath of calumnious passion upon the political character of the people, and not upon their political character only. A religious contemporary tells us that we ought to vote as we pray : no doubt we ought, and religion is valueless unless it guides us in the great duties of life : but the faction fight is more likely to react upon the voter's frame of mind, than the praying is to act upon the vote. One of the Ministers, in the course of the campaign, took pains to prove by rule of three applied to salaries, that the Catholic Church had its full share of pelf ; a singular development of the religion of Jesus of Nazareth. An unusual amount of money appears to have been spent, much of it, no doubt, in corruption.

The election was preceded by a session equally illustrative of the system, since it was a mere prelude to the faction fight, each party trying to get the weather-gage of the other in public opinion. No more business was done than a small body of men going to work in a practical way would have accomplished in half the time. Self-government, to a people worthy of it, as the people of Canada are, will in the end, as we hope and trust, prove a boon. But if the system of faction were destined to last for ever, there would be reasons, both on political and moral grounds, to look back with regret to the rule of a good Governor or of any man of sense and honour.