

THE LOCAL ELECTIONS!

The Issues to be Decided by the People at the Polls 5th June,

THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

Sandfield Macdonald opposed the Confederation scheme on the ground that it would result in too much government. However, when the British North America Act became law, and the union of the Provinces was consummated, he loyally accepted the situation, and served the country with rare devotion to the day of his death. Last summer, in a speech at Lindsay, Hon. George Brown, who libelled Sandfield daily from 1867 to 1871, recanted and paid the dead statesman a worthy tribute. "Sandfield Macdonald," said Mr. Brown, "was a man who would neither do wrong himself, nor allow those around him to do wrong." As first Premier of Ontario, Sandfield laid it down as his chief principle, that economy in Local affairs was necessary to the existence of the Federal system. Holding this view, he guarded the public chest jealously; indeed it has been said, and with some degree of truth, that his parsimony brought about his defeat. Had he spent the public money with a lavish hand, as his successors have done, he would have secured the allegiance instead of arousing the hostility of

the powerful rings and combinations that always beset a full treasury. In 1869, while visiting St. Andrew's, in the County of Glengarry, where he was buried three years afterwards, he was accused of "niggardliness," by a prominent local politician, and his reply is worth reproducing: "I admit I am niggardly. I deal with the public money as though I were dealing with my own personal funds. I am quite convinced—I took this ground during the Confederation debates—that an excessive or extravagant expenditure would in the long run lead the people to complain of the cost of Local government, and the next step would be the overthrow of our present governmental system. So long as I have the honor to be a member of the Ontario Government, I shall continue to be 'niggardly,' for economy, the strictest and most careful economy, is the sheet anchor of the Federal constitution." When this faithful public servant was defeated in the Legislature, a new order of things was established, and his successors, affecting to despise his policy of parsimony, launched out into excessive