

When Great Men Differ.

IT was Voltaire who said that the quarrels of the great and the clamor of the small are necessary to liberty. Is it possible that the quarrel between Mr. Monk, M.P. and Mr. Tarte M.P. comes under the former classification? Relatively, members of parliament may be spoken of as great, though Heaven knows some of them are small enough. But Mr. Monk was a chosen leader and Mr. Tarte had the halo of having once been great. He was jealous of Mr. Monk's official predominance in the councils of the Conservative party of the province of Quebec. Antagonistic to Mr. Monk also and allied with Mr. Tarte were Mr. Pelletier, the selected organizer of the province, and Mr. Hugh Graham of the "Star", one of the 'self-elected managers of the party. Mr. Monk in his official letter to the leader of the party, resigning his position, gives as the reason the intrigues of these men against him. His position is easily understood. A short time ago, and according to the Conservative press and platform, Mr. Tarte was using bad means to assist in carrying constituencies against a pure and patriotic party called the Conservative. At that time Mr. Monk was formally elected leader for the Quebec section of the Conservative party. Because Mr. Tarte failed to retain his position in the Liberal party these certain persons in the Province of Quebec caballed with him to supplant Mr. Monk.

The views of the Conservative press on the subject are very conflicting. The Montreal Gazette is very flattering to Mr. Monk and pays many tributes to his high character, ability, and zeal in the cause. The Toronto Mail and Empire is also very

courteous to Mr. Monk and wishes to emphasize the fact that he still retains membership in the Conservative party. Neither of these leading papers had a word to say against Mr. Tarte's usurpation of Mr. Monk's place and no criticism of the conduct which Mr. Monk, officially brought to the notice of the leader. Another Conservative paper, the Ottawa Evening Journal, practically said that if Mr. Monk could not hold his position he was not fit for it and that if the party was in such a bad plight in the province of Quebec that fact would make votes for the Conservatives in the other provinces. Another Conservative paper, the St. John Sun, in a leading article of the 22nd inst. rather resents the action of Mr. Monk and thinks that he should have accepted the slights put upon him as part of the game. The Sun agrees with the Toronto World that it is not necessary to elect a successor to Mr. Monk.

This advice is probably based on the fact that it would be quite impossible to elect a successor at the present time, and the 100,000 Conservative votes cast in the province of Quebec at the last general election will go unrepresented for a time in the person of any particular leader. Sir John Macdonald's leader in the province of Quebec was Sir Hector Langevin and he would not allow even so big a man as Mr. Chapleau to interfere with him. Sir Charles Tupper chose Mr. Angers as the leader when he formed his Administration in 1896 and even went so far as to place the choice of his colleagues from Quebec province in the cabinet in the hands of Mr. Angers.