

In the progress of the controversy, the Jesuits' Estates Act has become almost a secondary matter and questions have been opened which the Machines have no more power to close than a steam engine has to alter the day of the week. The conflict between ecclesiastical aggression and civil right is just as irrepressible as was the conflict between slavery and freedom, though happily it is not likely to assume such tremendous proportions, or to be settled at such fearful cost. It extends, as daily events show us, over the States as well as over Canada, albeit there is not in the States a counterpart of the solid block of Ecclesiasticism and Papalism presented by Quebec. It extends to every part of the world in which the Church of the Middle Ages is still struggling for dominion. In an Australian review the other day there was an able and thoughtful essay on the institutions of the Colonies, the writer of which, after suggesting some improvements, wound up with the pensive remark that all improvements would be in vain so long as the Irish Catholic vote continued for objects of its own to hover between the parties, playing off one against the other and making honest and stable government impossible. The Catholic vote in Ontario is cast in the local election for Mr. Mowat's Government as the payment for patronage and Separate Schools. In the Dominion election which immediately follows it is transferred to the other party also for goods sold and delivered, the goods being the organic principles, the interests and honour of this Commonwealth. By way of turning the eye of the public from the mark and at the same time scaring the clerical leaders of the movement it has been said that the movement ought to be directed not against the encroachments of the Roman Catholic Church alone, but against those of the clergy generally. All bodies of men who possess influence are apt to take too much upon them, and when the clergy of any denomination do this, repression will become a duty. But the clergy of churches other than the Church of Rome do not pretend to temporal power; on the contrary, they with one voice abjure