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It is contended in vindication of the step taken by Mr. Mowat that a dissolution and a new election follow as matters of course when there has been an alteration of the Franchise. If that is the constitutional rule, why is the dissolution so suddenly and unexpectedly sprung upon us? Why was it not regularly announced as soon as the Act altering the Franchise had been passed? How are we to account for all this hesitancy and suspense? Evidently what is assigned as a constitutional ground is a mere pretence; the real reason is one connected with party strategy; the object is to jockey the Dominion Premier or to escape being jockeyed by him. Such a change as was made in the English representation by the great Reform Bill, or even by the introduction of household suffrage, might be said with some reason to condemn the existing Parliament, and to call for a new election. Even in these cases delay would perhaps have been wise, since it would have given the newly enfranchised classes time to turn their attention to political questions, and qualify themselves in some degree for their new trust. We see no reason for retracting a word that we have said against irregular and premature dissolutions.

MR. MOWAT, when taxed with trying to do harm to the Dominion Government by suddenly bringing on the Local election, frankly replies that he does not see why he should not. Nor, in sooth, do we. A faction fight is a moral civil war in which, so long as you do not poison the wells, you are not only permitted, but bound, to do about everything else in your power for the destruction of the enemy. For our part we cherish a lurking hope that some day all this will be changed, that Government; instead of being partisan will become national; and that instead of half the citizens feeling it their duty to do it all the harm in their power, all citizens will feel it their duty to support it. But while we look forward to National Government in the future, for the present we take things as they are. All that we ask is that things shall be called by their right names, and that an irregular dissolution for the purpose of party tactics shall be designated as what it is, not as a dissolution rendered constitutionally necessary by the recent extension of the suffrage. Somebody was once defending to Mark Pattison an equivocal action, and trying to show that its principle was right. "My friend," replied Mark, "be as immoral as you please, but don't erect your immorality into a principle." So we say, Play what tricks in the party game you like, but don't erect them into principles of the constitution.

MR. MOWAT's strongest point in the impending faction fight will be the superiority of his team to that of his opponent. Mr. Fraser may be the organ of an objectionable alliance, but it cannot be said that he is wanting in ability; nor will any candid judge deny that the other members of the Government are fairly up to their work. But on the other side, Mr. Meredith, though excellent in himself, stands almost alone. In a Dominion faction fight, the intelligent elector votes Blue or Yellow; he does not trouble his head about the comparative ability of the men who are only to manage the affairs of the nation. But in the Provincial contest he feels that the affairs which are to be managed are his own, and he votes not without an eye to the administrative qualifications of those who are to manage them. Mr. Meredith must try to bring one or two men of more mark into the field. He has, for the first time, a strong cause if he chooses heartily to cast in his lot with the growing movement against Roman Catholic domination. Otherwise, there will be merely another exhibition of hopeless weakness. Supposing Mr. Meredith were able to provide himself with a team equal, or nearly equal, to that of his opponent, the Province might be none the worse for a change of Government. The long continuance of the same party in power invariably breeds corruption. It is to be hoped that the Opposition will at all events hold seats enough to make it effective. Of all Governments, a party Government without an effective Opposition is the worst.

MR. BLAKE has made, we must say, a very effective reply to the charge against him of unpatriotically crying up Kansas as a place for settlement, and running down Canada. It seems that he referred to Kansas in

debate only once, that he did it for good cause, and that there was nothing unpatriotic in what he said. He flings back the charge of want of patriotism with great force on those who, believing, as they aver, that his words were hurtful to the country, nevertheless gave them the widest possible circulation for a party purpose, instead of letting them die and be forgotten. "I believe," says Mr. Blake, "in the virtue of the truth, and I believe that great harm has resulted to Canada, both at home and abroad, through the adoption of other tactics." Amen!

WE do not pretend to be masters of political tactics; otherwise we should say that the Dominion Government would commit a strategical error in bringing on the elections at present. The Government of Quebec, being itself on crutches, can hardly do much to prop the tottering steps of its confederate; while it seems plainly desirable to allow the Riel ferment more time to subside. The movement against Roman Catholic ascendancy appears to be gaining ground; it is all in favour of the Dominion Government in this Province, and its effect on Quebec will probably be rather to intimidate the clergy there, and render them more tractable, than to throw them into the arms of an Opposition which, unless it has totally divested itself of Liberal principles, they must know is at heart, and will in the long run show itself, their enemy. The Government, while it has nothing particular against it except the Riel agitation and the doubtful state of the finances, has nothing particular in its favour. It has nothing definite on which to appeal to the people. Sir John Macdonald should take a leaf out of his own book. In 1878 he regained power by holding out to the people what they took, rightly or wrongly, to be the prospect of a material benefit. He swept the country with the N. P. If he would now hold the elections over till after the session, and in the meantime put himself in a position to hold out to the people a real prospect of Reciprocity, he would very likely sweep the country again. The people care for Reciprocity a good deal more than the politicians think. The people care altogether a good deal more than the politicians think for bread and butter, and a good deal less for fancy politics, such as the question of Riel's insanity. We doubt whether Sir John Macdonald himself foresaw how much N. P. was going to do for him in 1878, and whether he did not rely for victory more on the old wire-pulling agencies, such as the Catholic vote.

ALL the political cards are being played, and, among others, Reform of the Senate. This we, for our part, have always advocated, not on revolutionary, but on Conservative, grounds, as we hold that every Conservative in England who had studied the situation rationally must advocate a reform of the House of Lords. In its present condition the Senate can afford the country no security whatever against precipitate or revolutionary legislation. It is perfectly useless for the purposes of its institution. It is true that the system has not had fair play. There will be no greater blot on the reputation of the public man whose nominees three-fourths of the present Senators are than the narrowness with which the nominating power has hitherto been used. There seems to be, practically, no way of infusing life and strength into the institution, but the introduction of the elective principle, which is now the basis and the vital principle of all government, whether it is destined to remain so to the end of time or not. The Winnipeg *Sun* proposes that the Senators shall be elected by the Local Legislatures, not by a majority, but with such an arrangement that the parties would elect Senators in proportion to their numerical strength; in other words, we suppose, with a minority clause. This would make the election a matter of party, whereas what we want, if we could get it, is a representation of the independent worth and the best intelligence of the country. Still it would be a great improvement on the present system, because it would, at all events, make the Senate a living institution and a power. The same fatal error is being committed in this country which is being committed in England. The Franchise is being blindly extended and the force of the revolutionary element is being proportionately increased, while the Conservative element of the constitution, instead of being fitted to bear the additional strain, is left unreformed and in decrepitude.

PARTISANS on both sides affect to believe that the result of the recent elections in the States has destroyed Mr. Cleveland's chance of renomination for the Presidency. With regard to his own party it is the case, no doubt, that many, disappointed of the spoils they expected, have resented Mr. Cleveland's adherence to the principle of Civil Service Reform, by voting against the Democrats, or abstaining from voting altogether; but, on the other hand, this loss appears to have been made up in part by an increased number of Independent votes cast for Democratic candidates. Made up in part, but not wholly; and this appears to account for the reduced Democratic majorities, and the transfer of so many seats from the Democrats