

Parish Politics.

THE time is soon coming for a new Dominion election. The Laurier troupe have held the Boards and the Bowell star combination has succeeded them in the appeal "Codlin's your friend, not Shortt." The claqueurs on both sides are getting their work in by applauding everything they hear. The political papers are following their usual tactics of praising the meetings of their own friends and belittling those of their opponents. In order to get at the truth of the situation the patient voter has to subscribe for and read the newspapers on both sides. To do injustice to one's opponents seems to be the maxim of political party writers. To do them justice appears to be a step of which they are afraid. Now if there is one thing that the ordinary public likes it is a fair fight. They like to hear both sides so as to understand something of what they are talking about. But by long suffering they have become painfully aware that only one side of the shield is all that is held out to them. There is a wide opening for some journal with courage and ability enough to be able to say when necessary, "The issue is so-and-so. The Government says *this* and the Opposition says *that*. The facts are *these*. Now judge for yourselves." The poor tired public, sick of coloured and often false representations from both sides, would welcome such a journal. It would be well abused by the extreme party men, but the support of the large mass of the people would be gladly given to it. We are slowly evolving an educated class in this country, who detest the modern caucus system and who despise the misrepresentation they see in party journals. These men do not do their duty because they do not get a chance. Their talents have no opportunity of development in political lines because they find that their services are not required for political journals. If they are not prepared to make the worse appear the better cause they are not wanted. Many a young enthusiast has been disillusioned in this direction very rapidly after his entrance on his journalistic career. There are papers in the Motherland which with all their faults are impartial. Each writer no doubt has his own bias, and it requires a very judicial mind to be perfectly fair. But there are some papers in the old home which are impartial, and the greatest are those which descend least to *suppressio veri*, and are never guilty of *suggestio falsi*. In both these respects our party press has much to learn. While it might be assumed that educated men would be disgusted and alienated by tactics such as those which have been just reprobated, it may be imagined that the bulk of the public would not be so, and they prefer to be gulled. This impression, if it exists, is wrong. It may suit countries where the standard of intelligence is lower than in Canada. But in the Dominion, like Scotland, that policy will not answer. In politics as in trade, "Honesty is the best Policy." The people have got a good deal of practical experience in the way of political education and they are, as a rule, sensible enough to judge between good and evil. What they want to know is *the truth*. The politicians are on trial before their fellow-countrymen, and as judges they want to hear and read the evidence on both sides. But multiplicity of business matters and other extraneous influences keep people from being able to investigate for themselves. Hence the necessity for some impartial oracle to which they may apply. In Canadian political life this is exactly what we have not got. The journal which supplies that need will require a very great deal of courage and intelligence, but the game is well worth the candle.

Another feature of political writing and political tactics to be borne in mind in the coming campaign is the dislike of the average voter to hearing A. B. blow his own horn. Whether A. B. is in the Ministry or not is generally a very small matter except to A. B. himself. In fact, when A. B. is "boomed" for office, the public become suspicious of A. B., and it would be better for that man if he had not been "boomed." Unselfishness is too much to expect perhaps from human nature, but the office should seek the man, not the man the office.

Another suggestion may be made. Words are often said to have been given to conceal thoughts, not to utter them. In Canada there are speakers who act upon this maxim. In England Mr. Gladstone is possibly the greatest exponent of this art. It has led him to his downfall. If politicians only knew it, the people like pluck. They prefer a man who says:—"Yes, I did it, and if necessary I would do it again" to a man who drowns them in a deluge of words and leaves them no wiser than when he began. The first thing to do is to gain the people's confidence. They are no fools, and soon find out whom they can trust. Lord Palmerston in England and Sir John Macdonald here owed much of their influence to the admiration each in his own sphere extorted by his audacity. If there is anything the populace detests it is a hypocrite or a dodger. A straight answer to a straight question will do more to disarm an opponent than all the dodging in the world.

There are questions of supreme importance before the Canadian people at this moment, but they are lost sight of in the party and personal squabbles which are going on. What is being done to induce settlers to open up the North-West? Where is our Immigration policy? Why are so many of our mines neglected? Why is such prominence given to the "oppressed minority" question when everybody knows it is all a matter between the Ins and Outs, and what we all really want here is to develop the country? Once we possess a population of ten or twelve millions Canadians can keep this country for themselves and their heirs forever, as the lawyers say. In Provincial matters the same kind of questions may be asked. Why, for instance, does not Ontario unite to put out of the way the socialism brought upon it by the iniquitous Public School legislation? Why is even one generation allowed to be brought up in practical ignorance of God and the Bible? These are some of the questions we would like to hear candidates discuss instead of their own merits and demerits. Above all, what the public wants to know is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. No more humbug, no more distorting of facts and figures.

The Canadian Historical Exhibition 1897.

THE Local Executive Committee of the above Exhibition, to be opened at Toronto on the 1st of July, 1897, received and adopted at a meeting held on Monday, 28th October, a report of a sub-committee on the subject of laying out a financial scheme. The report, which outlines a plan for the exhibition, is as follows:

Your Committee, pursuant to their instructions, have considered the question of a financial basis for the Canadian Historical Exhibition of 1897. Estimates of the intermediate and ultimate expenses may be expanded or contracted between very wide limits, according to the scope of the Exhibition proper; and still more with reference to numerous