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THE ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

THE lapse of a few weeks enables us to understand, better than we could a day or two after the 5th of June last, the meaning of the vote then given by the electorate of Ontario. Mr. Mowat is secured in power for four years more, with a majority of about twenty-eight in his favour, equal to one third of the Assembly. He is now master of the Provincial situation, except in so far as he may have to reckon with those through whose support the victory was won. The result has been something of a surprise to most people, contrasting so strongly with the vote of the Province in the Dominion elections last September. Then Sir John A. Macdonald carried the Province by 66 to 22; now Mr. Mowat carries it by 58 to 30; one of the most remarkable results in all the history of popular elections. Some of the explanations of this apparent extraordinary change in public sentiment which were current six weeks ago, do not carry as much conviction now as they may have done while the heat of the excitement had not yet died out. In all fairness, we think too much has been made of the National Policy as an issue in the con-

test, and that the Roman Catholic vote in Mr. Mowat's favour has not been sufficiently allowed for. Everybody understands now, that to this vote he owes much of his large majority; there will be no very vigorous denial of the fact after this. But with all due allowance made for this influence on Mr. Mowat's side, other influences have also to be considered.

Critics of the event have too much puzzled their brains trying to explain Ontario's vote of June 5th, 1879, thereby wasting their energies on the wrong subject. The truth of the matter is, that it is not the recent local elections, so much as the Dominion elections of last year, which stands in need of explanation. If people would but bear in mind the fact, which surely should not be forgotten by anybody, that Ontario is by large odds a Reform and not a Conservative Province, they would not see anything to be surprised at in the Reform victory of this year. Why, Ontario *always* returned a Reform majority to Parliament, at least ever since Responsible Government was put in practice; and it should be remembered that Sir John A. Macdonald, during the many