

gress recently made by its leader, was weak. In position it was equally weak, for no disclaimers could dissipate the impression that on the Boundary Question its course was controlled, through the head of its party at Ottawa, by French jealousy of the British Province. There are more Grits than Tories in Ontario, as there were more High-heelers than Low-heelers in Lilliput; nor was there anything which by appealing to interest, as the National Policy did, seemed likely to draw a Grit from his camp. In the recent bye-elections the Government had signally triumphed. It is rather the reduction of the majority therefore that surprises us. Party journals on both sides find a strange difficulty in ticking off the names upon the lists of candidates, with the party to which each candidate belonged, which they had themselves published before the election. But the majority has been reduced from something like twenty-eight to something like ten. Every party government, having a number of retainers to feed and of interests to propitiate, must accumulate in its course a certain amount of disappointment and disaffection: this may have been in part the cause. Perhaps also the many-headed monster is fond of change and was rather tired of hearing Aristides called the Just. But to the power of Ottawa, which had not been put forth in the bye-elections, we are disposed mainly to ascribe the result; and if this surmise is correct, a light has been thrown upon the real distribution of force between the Central and Local elements of the Confederation. Ten is a working majority in a house of eighty-eight; English Governments have been carried on with majorities far less in proportion, though the waning of a star is apt to beget ratting, for which precedents are not wanting in the history of the Local Legislature of Ontario. But on the issues between the Local and the Dominion Premier the Dominion Premier must be held to have gained a moral, or an immoral, victory. Nothing, indeed, short of a unanimous rush of the Province to arms would have sustained the position taken up by the Local Premier on the subject of the Boundary Award. The contest was marked by the usual incidents of a faction fight. Issue there was none of a kind to lend any colour of reason to the division of the community into two armies fighting against