OUR TORONTO LETTER.

THE LEGISLATURE—THE ADJOURNMENT—ANOTHER BLOW AT BRITISH CONNECTION—MUNICIPAL MATTERS—TORIES AND REFORMERS—THE LIQUOR QUESTION—SHORT-HAND REPORTERS IN THE LAW COURTS.

[Several correspondence of The Post.]

TORONTO, Dec 28th.

THE ADJOURNMENT

On the 14th inst. the Assembly was prorogued by the Queen's Birthday. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor came down to give his assent to certain Bills which had passed the third reading, and one of which, the Ballot Act, was necessary to the forthcoming municipal elections. As usual, no fee had been issued for the volunteers to turn out as a guard of honor, but it was soon found out that they had not been paid for the part they took in the opening ceremonies a few weeks ago, and the order was countermanded, of course no sensible person thought His Honour a whit less dignified because he was forced to come down Simcoe St., and along Front St. without any attendants except his aide, but the Tories have been endeavoring to make some political capital at the expense of the Reform Government at Toronto and Ottawa on what they are pleased to term the meanness of the latter. I have already indicated the change that has for some time been coming over public opinion in regard to this matter, and I am much mistaken if the capital made will not turn out to be on the other side of the account. The general impression is that "guards of honor" and other paraphernalia are all parts of a grand farce—a kind of burlesque on royalty with which we can justly dispense. The office of Lieut.-Governor is a useful and necessary one, but there is no occasion for making him either ridiculous or a martyr to a piece of needless and absurd pomp. I am much mistaken also if this does not turn out to be the last order of the kind issued to the militia. Henceforth, in all probability, His Honor will be permitted to come down from his residence to the House with the utmost privacy, and before long he will doubtless be allowed to doff the silk breeches and wear a pair of comfortable broadcloth trousers. Let us by all means be conservative of what is useful, but let us guard against making ourselves ridiculous in the eyes of others as well as ourselves.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

We are in the midst of excitement here just now, on account of the unusual interest taken in our municipal elections. We have a Mayor, a couple of dozen Aldermen, and four Water Commissioners to elect, and the amount of canvassing done in connection with these various elections is enormous in extent. The only candidates for the Mayoralty are the present incumbent of the office, Mr. Medcalf, and Mr. Angus Morrison. Mr. Medcalf is a prominent Orangeman, and a good friend of the Protestant Volunteers, both of which he is no doubt relying on for support. He is ex officio one of the Police Commissioners, and as such has a good deal to do with regulating the liquor traffic. His colleagues are Police Magistrate Ardagh and Recorder Duggan. Both last year and this year the Police Board has been interfered with by the Local Government in the matter of appointments, and Judge Duggan having on each occasion manfully defared in favour of his colleague the Police Magistrate trimmed the Government about the second, and Mayor Medcalf is now said to be about to follow suit. The movement people have perhaps as little to fear from the opposition, who are known to the whole country what he boasts himself to be, "a self-made man." Mr Morrison was M. P. for Toronto from 1863, and at one time held a seat in the old Canadian Parliament. He is a lawyer by profession and filled the civic chair of Toronto some years before. He is possessed of many good traits of which his opponent is immediately reminding the electors of doing business and the power of controlling the Council so as to keep on the right channels of economy. He will probably, if the Reform votes cast, while he will secure a sufficient number of Conservative ballots to secure his election.

POLITICS AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Spectators of Reform and Conservative votes remark that our municipal affairs are managed here on the strict party principle. The candidates are elected for the most part on account of their political leanings, and after they become members of the Council they divide into a Ministerial or opposition party as openly and squarely as the members of the Legislature do. The chairmanship of the Finance Committee is by common consent regarded as First Lord of the Treasury, and it is well understood that all the important appointments shall fall to members of the dominant party. The opposition are of course represented on all the committees but they are in a minority, and they can do little more than watch the proceedings of their fellow members in order to prevent, if possible, any open fraud or extravagant management. During the year about to finish Parliament held the reins of power, and, fortunately for their opponents, civic affairs have been managed then at many times during the years. This is one reason for the present moral activity just now. The Reformers, having got rid of the Tory leaders, during the year been the Prime Minister of the party in power have deserted the Council together, and are competing with two other Tories for the position of Water Commissioner. About the ballot against itself cannot be said would not be at all surprising if the respective elections should give the Reformers a clear majority. The favor will be assisted by the Reformers, and