

THE PROPOSED THIRD PARTY.

It is well known that ever since the day on which Hon. Mr. Mowat bagged, so to speak, the Brawling Brood of Bribers red-handed in their nefarious scheme, the managing director of the Mail has hated the Premier of Ontario with a hatred bordering on insanity. It was proved that Bunting stood in such intimacy with the plotters that he must be considered as something more than a mere accessory to the crime. If Meek and Wilkinson were innocent, so also was Bunting, but not otherwise. Canada, at least the respectable portion of it, has already decided on the degree of guilt attaching to the former, and that decision stamps Bunting equally culpable with the others.

It will be remembered that Bunting made the most strenuous endeavors to clear himself of the foul charge. It will be also remembered that he ingloriously failed. And for this he has continued to hate Mr. Mowat as only he who has been trapped in crime can hate his captor. Hence it is apparent to all that the Mail, that is, Bunting, is far more anxious to defeat Mr. Mowat than it is to secure a fresh term of office for Sir John Macdonald. Whether there be a change or no change of government at Ottawa, Bunting has set his vindictive soul on a change in Toronto. Party interests are completely lost sight of by the frenzied Bunting in his terrible, rancorous hatred, not of the man who harmed him, but of the man whom he tried and failed to harm.

Just now the weapons in favor of the old rendezvous of the ludicrously discredited 'Brawling Brood' for the destruction of Mr. Mowat are Prohibition and Protestantism. A few months ago a cheap book for school children seemed to the pious journal a strong cry. But it has given that up, and now it goes in for the two P's.

By means of Prohibition the Mail is endeavoring to form a third party. In as much as very nearly all the Temperance legislation which Canada enjoys has been given by Reformers, the Mail very wisely concludes that of those who would form the new party at least nine-tenths would be Liberals. The Conservatives will, of course, be expected to stand by their own candidates. The third party is a mere cat's paw to weaken the Reformers. And this is one way in which Bunting hopes to crush his enemy.

The exact use the Mail proposes to make of its political Protestantism one may easily guess. The Mail reasons that there is in all, or in nearly all, breasts a certain amount of latent bigotry. If this bigotry can only be evoked, then, to the shame of Protestantism of course, but certainly to the injury of Mr. Mowat, Bunting will have scored a point against the supposed cause of all his shame and woes. The means taken to arouse this war of creeds are not, indeed, very reputable. They are not such as a Christian could conscientiously employ. They are, in fact, a compound of falsehoods, knavery and absurd alarms. But what of that? Bunting has sworn that Mowat must go, and the man who was proved to be an accomplice of the Brood is not at all likely to be particular in his ways and weapons. For him fair is foul, and foul is fair. Perish every other consideration, if Mowat be struck down.

We cannot congratulate Bunting on the goal of his ambition. And we feel certain that, when the proper time comes, the people of Ontario will treat his screams for vengeance with the scorn and ridicule which they merit.

"GRIP" AND G. B. SMITH.

Grip has allowed himself to be guilty of a gross wrong. It is no more than justice to the ebony bird to say that this is a charge which can seldom be laid at its door. But in depicting Mr. G. B. Smith as the nominee of the liquor interest, truth and fair-play are ruthlessly and ignorantly butchered. Indeed, the facts of the case are so notorious that we are perfectly astonished that any one, let alone the usually so well informed Grip, could possibly have made a blunder ludicrous in its immensity. The Convention at Markham was one of the largest ever held in the riding of East York. The votes cast at the first ballot for Mr.

Smith outnumbered those cast for all the others proposed. Now, East York is strongly imbued with temperance principles. The leading men at the Convention are all devoted to the cause. Both the proposer and the seconder of Mr. Smith are teetotalers, and in favor of prohibition. In this village, Mr. Smith declared himself of the same way of thinking. Until the country is ripe for the great change, he pronounced emphatically the wish to keep the traffic in as close bounds as possible. On the strength of these declarations, Richmond Hill sent delegates who almost to a man are open Prohibitionists. This we avouch on our own personal knowledge. We are informed, moreover, and can readily believe, that a vast majority of all the delegates at the Markham Convention are workers for the Temperance cause. Yet, in the face of all this, Grip bluntly and impudently dubs Mr. Smith the 'Rummy Candidate.' If this be the case, then all we have to say is that East York is hopelessly given up to strong drink, for if the Convention were to be held again, we are satisfied that Mr. Smith would carry it by a majority far larger than even that which he has already received.

Grip would do well to revise its opinions, and then, unless for the sake of novelty it has resolved to be for once grossly unfair, it will find an altogether different verdict. Grip must not suppose that its insult is offered simply to Mr. G. B. Smith. The whole riding of East York is deeply involved in its would be funny and moral cartoon. We have no doubt that the Reformers of East York will take care that Grip does not again so wantonly insult them. They have at their disposal a weapon which has damped a greater and more ignorant ardor than is even Grip's.

We have a well-founded suspicion that Grip has fallen a victim to the lies and misrepresentations of one whose zeal is not regulated by regard for truth. Patience has accomplished greater tasks than is the unravelling of this astounding work of mendacity produced by Grip. We shall now only say that Grip's informant, should we be correct in our surmises, is destined to suffer in that poor head of his pangs and penalties far deeper than those usually meted out to falsehood begotten of fanaticism.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

There appears to be a feeling existing in this village at present that three teachers are sufficient to control the Public School, and that, consequently, only three should be engaged for the ensuing year. The reason is not far to seek. The question as to whether the parts of the section outside the village will carry out their determination to secede still remains unsettled. If they do, the number of school children would be considerably lessened. At any rate, the removal of the Patterson Works will be the means of taking several families to away which are now resident in this village, and therefore, our school population will undoubtedly grow less. Keeping those facts before the mind, the trustees should weigh the matter well before their next meeting, and consider whether three teachers could manage satisfactorily in three divisions those pupils who have for the last few years been divided into four departments. We think ourselves that by proper classification and complete discipline, three teachers would answer every purpose. The Inspector's last report to the trustees plainly showed that where no play ground is in connection with a school, and where young children are forced to play on the public streets, the custom is both dangerous and mischievous. Children form idle and slovenly habits when left to climb fences and wander around, which they would not in a well regulated play ground. The school buildings have undergone thorough repairing, and are now quite comfortable, and we feel satisfied that three teachers can do the work much more easily than was done by four under the former unhappy state of things. By all means consult the best interests of the rising generation, but if two or three hundred dollars can be saved in the taxes, which are now high, so much the better.

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