

Brown, supported by the Toronto Reform Convention, moved a resolution "That the existing Legislative Union of Upper and Lower Canada had failed to realize the anticipations of its promoters; that it had resulted in a heavy debt, grave political abuses and universal dissatisfaction." This gives articulate expression to the murmurs now heard in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick against the wider Union in which an escape from the uneasy wedlock of the two Canadas was sought. Confederation, like the preceding measure, has certainly resulted in a heavy debt, the offspring of the more ambitious policy pursued especially in the annexation of the Pacific Province for which the Atlantic Provinces care little. It has not less certainly resulted in an immense development of faction and corruption. Our statesmen cannot be too quick in inaugurating, if it be possible, a policy the benefits of which, in the shape of reduced expenditure and a truly national government, all the members of the Confederation will feel; for the edifice is not yet well cemented and rifts are beginning to appear.

—In the Ontario Legislature the measure of the Session has been the voluminous Judicature Bill, which extinguishes the last vestige of a separate Equity Jurisdiction, and makes all the Courts at once Courts of Law and Equity. So perishes the last hair of Lord Eldon's wig. At the same time the Government has exhausted the reform of legal procedure, the best of all subjects for a display of activity when you do not want to be very active. The rural legislators probably passed the Bill without reading it in the vague hope that it might contain some ratsbane in the shape of a reduction of lawyers' fees. Transcribing English Acts of Parliaments is safe work, but original legislation on the highest subjects of jurisprudence might not be so safe for a legislature mainly consisting of worthy agriculturists and led by lawyers who can seldom be first rate. Railroads have been importunate: perhaps the Attorney-General might assign them that portion of his "sur-