

of these wonderful changes and improvements requires a coalition of political parties for its accomplishment. The manner of admission or organization—a question of general politics—would be the only point at issue, as the desirability of a united British America has been affirmed by the Union Act. A different policy seemed preferable to some of our Liberal chiefs, who continued to adhere to a Conservative Government, led by that astute and wily politician, Sir John A. Macdonald. This, it seems to us, was a grave mistake—one highly injurious to the interests of the country, and lowering to the tone of Dominion politics. The general elections of 1872 gave the Government a good working majority, and the country had apparently sanctioned the coalition. In reality, the reverse was the case, for later developments brought to light such a mass of damaging facts against the Government, or at least against its leading members, all pointing to corrupt practices, that Sir John A. Macdonald and his colleagues were driven from office. The practical value of political coalitions, and their patriotic regard for the public welfare, were consistently displayed by the conduct of the Canadian Coalition when a hostile House of Commons compelled them to relinquish the seals of office. Two of their number betook themselves to the ease and dignity of Provincial Governorships; one has settled himself on the seat of justice, beneath the Judge's ermine; two have dropped into private life, one through judicious choice, the other through defeat; while others have succeeded again in obtaining Seats in Parliament, mournfully to reflect upon "what might have been."

The famous resolutions of the Hon. Mr. Huntington, moved in the House of Commons on the 2nd day of April 1873, are lengthy, and have long been before the public, so that it is not necessary to reproduce them in this article. They boldly charged Ministers with corrupt practices—of selling to Sir Hugh Allan undue concessions in the Pacific Railway, for which Sir Hugh agreed to, and did in fact, advance large sums of money to aid Ministers and their friends in the General Elections of 1872. Mr. Huntington's resolutions were defeated by thirty-five of a majority, only to be followed, on the eighth of the same month, by a resolution of Sir John A. Macdonald, for the appointment of a committee of five to investigate and report upon the charges. The Hon. Messrs. John Hilyard Cameron, Dorion, Blake, James McDonald and Blanchet, were appointed such committee. A Bill enabling the