

ition among the nations should be settled by her own will and not by the pressure of financial disaster.

—In the dead season of politics, Ministerial journals employ their leisure in exposing the discrepancies and inconsistencies of the Opposition creed. They enjoy the satisfaction of going through the list of leading questions, and finding that on no one of them are the Opposition leaders and organs agreed saving the duty of hating Sir John Macdonald. Perhaps even on that point practical unanimity hardly prevails. But the Opposition is just now changing its skin : it is casting off the slough of Gritism : soon it will come forth renovated and burnished in Liberal youth. To mix our metaphors : the fleet is going over from the Grit to the Liberal tack : the sheets of the *London Advertiser* have filled, and it is cutting the water merrily ; while some of its consorts are hanging, and two or three, perhaps, will forever hang, in stays. Candour, however, must admit that there is more than this. There is an extensive fermentation of public opinion on questions which neither of the parties has hitherto taken up, though they are the great questions of the future. It is natural that the Liberal party should be the more affected of the two by this movement, and that it should betray symptoms of half conviction and vacillation, from which a party of resistance to all movement is free. In time, opinion will settle, and those who comprehend the situation, and know their own minds, will, as usual, take a decisive lead. In the meantime, Parliamentary history is full of proofs that an Opposition, divided on some questions, may still find a point of united attack. Mr. Blake may give battle on the Coal Tax without touching the Senate or Commercial Union.

With regard to the question of the Senate, we confess that we ourselves occupy a position in which it would be difficult for us to frame a mere party motion. That the system of two Chambers is a mistake, having its origin in a total misconception as to the nature of the House of Lords, is a conviction in