

The strength of the Macdonald Government appears to be unimpaired, though its motley host of followers, in which the Orangeman marches by the side of the Ultramontane, could hardly be held together by any other chief. Its finance prospers, its outlook generally is bright, except that a cloud has risen on the horizon in the North-West. Its victory at the last election could surprise no one: it had the wind of reviving prosperity full in its sails: the harvest had been good: a new market had been opened in the North-West: commercial interests had been created which looked to the Government as their author and protector: boundless hopes had been excited, and speculation as well as manufactures fought on the Ministerial side. In the three hundred Colonization Companies, it may be surmised, were not a few Grits who cast a vote in favour of Colonization under the friendly cover of the Ballot. Gerrymandering was a blunder as well as a crime: it was a blunder such as tacticians who do not rightly estimate the strength of the moral forces are apt often to commit. But the moment for the Dissolution was wisely chosen; and though there are the strongest objections to a practice which makes the duration of Parliament depend not on the law, but on the conning of the weathercock by a party leader, such is now the game; and cutting short the life of a Parliament for a party purpose by an exercise of the prerogative is not so bad as lengthening it for a similar purpose by a quibble. The majority was unexpectedly large; but as the people grow more educated and quicker witted, as the influence of a metropolitan press increases, as local ties become weaker, and opinion more capable of shifting, large majorities are likely to be the rule, and great effects may be expected from anything which, like National Policy, impresses the mind of the people strongly at the time of an election. The Opposition fought not only under an adverse star, but in imperfect array. They had changed their leader, they had not changed their editor; and the editor crossed the policy of the leader on the main question in the decisive hour. Nor was the policy of the leader well defined. It is not in commercial questions that