

and has among its associates other ministers of the Gospel. The New Party makes great pretensions and great claims, and no doubt may at the next general election be a disturbing element in some constituencies, though not in North Oxford. I have not heard of any Reformers here joining the New Party, though there may be some. The fact of a minister of the Gospel being the leader has naturally attracted some Reformers elsewhere, excellent men, but men perhaps who have not been strong politicians, or followed closely the operations of political parties. I doubt not that, in joining the New Party and supporting it, these Reformers believe that they are doing God service. With much respect for them all, I do not think that in this they are doing God service. Their motives are beyond all praise, but their action in regard to this New Party, I venture to think, is a mistake. I have been a pretty close student of politics and politicians for 35 years and more, with all the advantages which public life during most of that time, and official life for more than half of it, have given to me, and I say, with the greatest respect, but with confidence, that this New Party is not in the country's interest, and that so far as it may exert any influence on public affairs, that influence is likely to be evil and not good. I will tell you how and why.

The motto adopted, "For God and Our Country," sounds well; and some of the planks in the New Party platform are attractive to both Reformers and Conservatives. Prohibition is an attractive plank to many; "Righteousness and Truth in Public Affairs," and "Equal Rights for All," are attractions for more. Then the new organ of the party, *The Canadian Nation*, announces its aim to be "to unite the Christian sentiment of the country, to demand truth and honesty in politics as well as in ordinary business, and to make righteousness the guardian star of our national life." These are good things which all good men of every party desire. Whether the formation of this New Party will bring them about, or is adopting a plan of action that will help to bring them about, is another matter. But, in view of the expressed aims of the party, I can quite understand some good Conservatives becoming New Party men. The

MISDEEDS OF THE CONSERVATIVE LEADERS

and representatives have been revolting to some of the best of their followers, who, notwithstanding, do not like to become avowed Reformers after having long been the opponents of Reformers. They hated the Pacific Scandals; and some of them helped in 1873 to defeat the Government which had been guilty