

consequences of which the country until recently seriously suffered. In the settlement of these difficulties much duplicity was practised by the two leaders of the Government. Pledges were given to-day and viol to-morrow, as some fresh evidence of the state of feeling was brought to their sanctums from Ontario and Quebec. The different steps taken—Mr. McDougall's attempt to reach the promised land, the formation and acts of the Provisional Government, Colonel Wolseley's expedition, the murder of Scott, and the Amnesty Question—are well known subjects. The whole proceeding was highly illustrative of that incapacity which Sir John Macdonald's amiable colleague, the ex-Lieutenant-Governor, declared reigned supreme at Ottawa. That peculiar faculty of the Premier which some call inconsistency was during this period displayed to its fullest extent. At one time it prompted its possessor to wish to God he could catch one of the chief figures in the Troubles, and at another to give this same individual a handsome donation with which to take a holiday.

In 1871 Sir John Macdonald tried a new adventure. A Joint High Commission was appointed for the settlement of the Alabama Claims and other matters in dispute between England and the United States. The Canadian Premier was offered and accept-