

other in Ontario, those two Governments are now running foul of each other. The Senate is a total failure, or worse; and yet there is no legal mode of enforcing reform, an unlimited creation of members, the *ultima ratio* by which the British House of Lords has been compelled to yield, not being lawful here. There is no regular tribunal for the decision of Federal questions, nor is there any power of constitutional amendment. As a step towards nationality, Federation would have been intelligible. But apart from this, of which the leaders evidently had no idea, while we loyally celebrate Dominion Day, and have a vague sense of gratitude for vast benefits received, it is not easy to say precisely what those vast benefits are. The objects for which the American colonies after their severance from the Mother Country embraced Federal Union—external defence, internal peace, and freedom of intercourse—were already secured to these Provinces by the supremacy of the British Government, under which the Provinces were practically federated, though Canadian statesmen do not seem to have been conscious of the fact. Confederation has brought an immense increase of the expenses of Government, a heavy public debt, and worse than all, an enormous development of demagogism and faction. What else it has brought, let its authors say: perhaps they may succeed in showing that the honour of having given it birth is worth a suit in the court of history.

—It is difficult to say whether the Licensing question or the Education question was present to the minds of the constituencies, or had much influence upon their votes. On both, however, the reduction of the majority will perhaps lower the tone of the Government. As to the perversion of the License Act to political objects, the testimony of Judge Hughes is direct, and even when divested of campaign typography, appears trustworthy on the material point: yet it was hardly needed to assure us that party would use patronage for party ends. The Ethiopian does not change his skin, even when he becomes a Christian Statesman. What the chiefs would shrink from doing, underlings do; and the underlings, if called to account, are defended by the chiefs. It is the Premier