

harbors, upon its stalwart men and comely maidens, upon its wealth of gold and silver, and its timber so suitable for the largest sized spars. In vain did he wind up his glowing pictures of the treasures of British Columbia by declaring it "a glorious Province---a Province which Canada should be proud to possess, and whose association with the Dominion she ought to regard as the crowning triumph of Federation." Up to this point Lord Dufferin's hearers were probably perfectly well able to agree with him. They never doubted that they are something which Canada should be proud to possess. They have been accustomed to regard their union with the Dominion as the crown of the Federal edifice. If they have complained of anything it is that Canada is not so proud as she should be of this possession---that she has not exhibited that sense of the stability of the Federal fabric which might have been desirable in the interests of its crown.

Although he took special pains to disavow being the bearer of any message, either from the Imperial or the Dominion Government, Lord Dufferin did, in fact, devote the principal portion of his speech to an elaborate exculpation of the Mackenzie Government from the charge of having failed in its duty to British Columbia. That was a sufficiently delicate mission for a Governor-General of Canada to be engaged in, for it was impossible that he could refer to the subject without investing himself with more or less of a diplomatic character. Such a character Lord Dufferin assumed before the citizens of Victoria, nor does he or they seem to have been aware that such an assumption was at all alien to his office or derogatory from his position. Declaring that he had come charged with a mission to testify by his presence that "the entire people of Canada, without distinction of party, are most sincerely desirous of cultivating with the people of British Columbia those friendly and affectionate relations upon the existence of which must depend the future harmony of the Dominion," Lord Dufferin went into a minute history of the transactions connected with the Pacific Railway to prove that the present Canadian Government has behaved with strict fidelity to its engagements. That was a bold thesis for the representative of the Imperial Government to maintain before the assembled citizens of British Columbia, seeing that the matter which Lord Dufferin had to press upon their favorable notice was the compromise of a compromise---the offer, in fact, of an insolvent Government to pay something like eighteen pence in the pound to a judgment creditor. Lord Dufferin performed his task with great intrepidity. Without denying that British Columbia has suffered in many ways from the breach of the treaty of Confederation with Canada, that her entrance into the Dominion was made conditionally on certain things being done which have not been done, or even begun to be done, Lord Dufferin essayed to defend the Dominion Government, and especially Mr. Mackenzie, its Prime Minister, against the charge of having wilfully broken this bargain. The argument is one with which we have been familiar from the mouths of the accredited organs of the Canadian "Grit" party. In the first place, Lord Dufferin contends that the bargain was entered into without due consideration, at a time when Canada was more prosperous and enterprising than she is now. In 1871 her