

incentive to Government and Opposition—the former to preserve at least the semblance of purity, the latter to detect any ministerial delinquency. Political Coalitions, therefore, except for temporary and extraordinary purposes, in the very nature of things, always prove disastrous to the public welfare and demoralizing to public men. They are as deadly to political purity and public morality as the blighting simoom or destroying plague to vegetable or animal life. We hate the very name of monopoly. And what, we ask, is a political coalition but a political monopoly, which means that all interests—political, commercial, social and private—must succumb to those of the monopolizers? Lord Chancellor Eldon, when asked to coalesce with Lords Grey and Granville during the Regency, refused on the ground, among other things, “that all attempts at making strong administrations upon broad bottoms, must be known to those who are practised politicians *to be frauds upon the country.*” “The great mass of the people,” he says, “hold the thing, and the men engaged in it, in utter detestation, producing absolute weakness in Government, and of course deeply affecting the interests of the Crown.”

The two great political parties of British America were sundered when the question of Confederation came before the people; and very properly so. It was a proposed change, involving new political associations of a radical nature, and divided public men, who had previously worked together, upon the general politics of the country. We are, however, strongly of the opinion, that the coalition formed to carry Confederation should have come to an end upon the consummation of that object, for the purpose which called it into life and sustained its existence had been attained. It may be replied, that the Coalition had not accomplished its object, until the whole of British North America had been brought within the pale of the British North America Act, 1867. The practical result of such a shallow argument might have imposed upon Canada a Coalition Government for the next quarter of a century. It was used before P. E. Island had entered the Dominion. Newfoundland is still shy; and to overtures of union says “no,” after the manner of a modest maiden possibly, who says “no,” when she means “yes.” New Provinces have yet to be carved out of the fertile prairies of the Great North-west; and tens of thousands of honest, industrious settlers have yet to people and cultivate these lands. But not one