

THE BYSTANDER.

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A MIDST the tangled confusion into which the Jesuits' Estates affair has thrown the parties and their relations, the broad lineaments of the situation are clear enough. To avert the separate growth of a French nationality, with its certain consequences, Lord Durham conceived the design of fusing the British and French Provinces by means of a legislative union into a nation, in which he no doubt hoped that the British element would prove the stronger and prevail. Full effect, however, was not given to this policy, since the representation was not fused but was left on a quasi-federal basis, each Province, irrespective of its population, sending an equal and separate delegation to the United Parliament; a concession which though under the circumstances it may have been inevitable was pregnant with danger to the scheme. What might have happened if real power had remained in the strong and impartial hands of a Royal Governor we cannot possibly say; but in the hands of party politicians fain to seek the French and clerical alliance the fate of the scheme was settled from the beginning. Government under that ill-starred wedlock became impracticable and a divorce inevitably followed. The next attempt was a nation with a federal structure, the Constitution being modelled on that of the United States, though with a false front of monarchy, which, so far as the practical operations of our institutions is concerned, is mere lumber and waste of money. To make up a federa-