

estimates, without proper exploration of the country ; and which, instead of consolidating Confederation, is likely, if prosecuted according to the present scheme, to place its integrity in the utmost peril by bringing it to financial disaster. A proviso was inserted in the contract that the burden of taxation should not be increased : but money could not be borrowed for a colossal undertaking without raising the interest in taxes, and the proviso has, of course, been given to the winds. It remains on paper only to condemn out of their own mouths those who, shrinking, as they signed the fatal bond, from the danger into which they were rushing, tried by the insertion of this illusory safeguard to hide the character of their act from themselves and from the country.

Mr. Blake's Resolution was defeated, as we had been warned it would be, by "a strict party vote," the *Globe* drawing away one man, and only one, from the Liberal side. Everybody knows what a strict party vote means, and what relation it bears to sincere conviction. The Ministerialists had been made safe in caucus, to which here, as in the United States' national affairs are being transferred from the open Parliament where they are transacted under the inconvenient inspection of the people. The Government was desperately committed, and powerful interests of various kinds have by this time been formed in connection with the Road. But it may be surmised that, in the caucus, to keep the Eastern Province men in line, something was promised in the shape of caution and delay. Whether anything more was promised will presently appear. The country has been awakened ; but a far greater effect would have been produced, had the leaders of the Opposition been at liberty to deal freely with the whole question. Their own policy hung round their necks. Mr. Mackenzie must wish that he had followed his own convictions, instead of yielding to conventional opinion and Lord Dufferin. But what is so rare as political courage ?

An important—we may say all-important—point was brought out, though rather in the way of omission than expression,