

—In the speech which, while our last number was in the printers' hands, Mr. Blake made at the Toronto Banquet, we find a passage, which, if we do not greatly mistake its import, denotes something like a change of front on the part of his section of the Opposition in relation to the Tariff. He lays down in language which we should be very willing to adopt, and which we may almost say that we have ourselves frequently used, the principle of Free Trade as manifestly right in the abstract, with the qualification that it cannot be applied without reference to the actual state of things. Mr. Blake pronounces the English policy of laying all the duties on a few articles, and of taxing nothing that can be produced within the country, incapable of adoption here. He proceeds to designate the new tariff as an experiment on which the country has decided, which must be fairly tried, and towards which no political party would be justified in assuming any attitude but one of careful examination and candid enquiry into the results. In effect, he renounces opposition, which it is hardly to be supposed he would have done, without taking counsel with the other leaders of the party; and Sir Richard Cartwright, though he did not follow in the same strain, appears to have acquiesced by his silence on the subject. Neither the *Globe* nor the *Mail* called attention to this notable deliverance; the *Globe*, no doubt, because its rolling-stock being all on the line of opposition to Commercial Autonomy and the Tariff, it felt that the change of track by no means suited it: the *Mail*, perhaps, because it did not wish to have the patent of its party infringed, or, think itself called upon to point out that the adversary had taken a tenable position. It may be questioned whether Mr. Blake is in time to win over manufacturers from the other party, but he is in time to keep those of his own. He has another step to take in the process of reasoning, which has led him to embrace Commercial Autonomy, and to admit that regard must be had to national circumstances in applying the abstract principle of Free Trade. He will in time see that the circumstances of Industry, on both sides of the line, are the