

that the Presidency was sold to Sir Hugh Allan would be harsh; but he was compelled, in consideration of the concession, to pay a great sum to the election expenses of the party from the heads of which he had received it: perhaps the practice of assessing office-holders to the party expenses in the United States is the closest analogy that can be named. Nobody calls for Sir John's "vouchers," or has ever imagined that any part of the money allotted to him by the agreement was used for any purposes than those of the party. On the other hand it is not true that the Opposition "spent money in bribing a man to steal papers from his employer." The papers came into their hands in a much less objectionable way. And now surely this most offensive corpse may be allowed to rest in its grave till the historical Day of Judgment.

WHAT may be called the fighting plank of the platform of the Conservative Convention is the resolution in favour of Protection. The old Boundary Dispute and the Pacific Railway policy are fast passing into history; the reference to the Ontario Conspiracy case is a protest which aims to affect opinion on a party intrigue. The reference of the Boundary Question to the Privy Council, proposed by the Federal Government in 1872, if accepted might not have had the result which the delayed reference brought in 1884. In 1872 there was nothing to refer, the case not having been prepared; and if a reference had been made then there would have been nothing to rely upon but the Quebec Act, which, on investigation, was found not to cover the ground. That the result of the investigation by the commissioners who enquired into the charges of conspiracy to overthrow the Ontario Government was "a complete exoneration of the Dominion Cabinets and the Ontario Opposition" is true. Whether the Canadian Pacific Railway construction ought to have been pushed on with a rapidity that will ensure completion several years before the time allowed by the contract expires is a political question, on which the Convention has endorsed the policy of the Government. Before the general election comes round, in the ordinary course of events, these questions will have been practically closed. Whether the true policy was acted upon in dealing with them will be a matter of opinion. But the protective features of the tariff, which the Convention pledges the Conservative Party to fight for, will remain. It will be strange if the pledge now given does not cause it to fight at a disadvantage. Mr. Tilley thinks there is saving virtue in his having been a protectionist since 1850. But this does not blot out the fact that in 1877 the declared policy of the Government of which he was a member was a re-arrangement of the tariff, without such an increase of duties as would give more revenue than the needs of the Government demanded. Declared protection, with or without a surplus, as the fates may determine, is a complete change of base; and that change the Convention, for weal or woe, has pledged itself to maintain. Weal to the country it cannot bring; that it may prove a messenger of woe to the party is not impossible.

THE experiment of doing without a bankrupt law was entered upon at the suggestion of the commercial organs and with the consent of all who had a right to be heard in the decision. The old law was blamed for an increase of bankruptcies, which were sometimes accompanied with signs of a manifestly fraudulent intent; assets compared to liabilities were often small, and the lawyers and the assignees got a disproportionately large share of what properly belonged to the creditors. So the law was repealed amid shouts of indignation which were succeeded by a momentary feeling of satisfaction. But the satisfaction was not destined to last long. Those who had called loudest for the abolition of the old bankrupt law soon became equally vehement in their demands for a new one. But they were not willing that the debtor should be discharged after he had been relieved of his assets. They insisted that a claim on his future earnings should be retained. When this proposal was made to the government, the right of parliament to pass a new insolvent law became a question; its right to pass a bankrupt law is clear, but is an insolvent law without a discharge clause a bankrupt law? This doubt the Government suggested, and nothing was done. Sir John Macdonald told a deputation of the Toronto Board of Trade last week that personally he was in favour of a bankrupt law, but he doubted whether Parliament, in its present mood, could be induced to re-enact a measure which, a very short time ago, it was called upon to repeal. It is natural that the Boards of Trade, which were the first to feel the ill effects of the repeal of the bankrupt law, should change their opinions with a celerity which Parliament cannot quite equal. Nevertheless, delay in the re-enactment of a bankrupt law would be very injurious to commerce; the commercial credit of Canada is suffering severely in England from the present unsatisfactory state of the law. Some curtailing of credits, in that direction, will do good rather than

harm, but the danger is that, in the absence of the means of discrimination, the reins will be drawn too tight. Credits have been too recklessly dispensed in the past; the anxiety to sell goods has been greater than the care taken to ascertain if they were likely to be paid for; extended credits were, in a measure, forced upon traders of small means, and for the inevitable result the creditor was himself often quite as much to blame as the debtor who had sometimes literally been unable to resist the importunity of the commercial "drummer." When the creditor takes undue risks he cannot complain if he suffers the consequences of his indiscretion. There are certain modes of doing business, fostered by creditors, which lead inevitably to bankruptcy, and when bankruptcy comes, the blame of the catastrophe may fairly be proportioned between debtor and creditor.

THE Fenians in the United States have been holding meetings at which the use of dynamite was openly discussed, and subscriptions have been actually taken up for the destruction of English men, women, and children by that and other instruments of slaughter. The blowing up of ships on the ocean, with all their passengers, is one of the projects over which Fenian imagination has gloated. Now, the deed is done, or the attempt to do it is made; but as it turns out to be a blunder as well as a crime, we are asked to believe that the real agents are the detectives, or, to cap the climax of mendacious extravagance, Mr. Gladstone and Lord Spencer. The plot to blow up London Bridge, like the plot to blow up the Nelson Column in Trafalgar Square, would, if it had taken effect, have resulted in a massacre of scores of persons of all ages and both sexes, who had no more to do with Irish grievances than the bridge or the column itself. The precise quarter from which the outrage on this occasion proceeds may be doubtful, for Fenianism in its extreme form seems to have joined hands with Anarchism and Nihilism in general. All friends of civilization and all civilized governments will soon find themselves constrained to join hands and oppose a united resistance to a universal reign of murder.

IN the Province of Quebec the line is being sharply drawn between the party of the Jesuits and the rest of the clergy with the Archbishop of Quebec at their head. The Jesuits in the frenzy of their zeal scorn to wait an opportunity, and insist on all their rash plans being carried out without delay. In a pamphlet published last summer, entitled "*La Source du mal de l'Epoque au Canada, par un Catholique*," they make open war upon the Archbishop of Quebec, the Seminary of St. Sulpice, the University of Laval and all the individuals who stand in their way. Probably with the hope of influencing the present Papal delegate, they pour coals of fire on the head of his predecessor. The Roman congregations and the Pope himself, to whom appeals are constantly being made, they only spare on the pretence that they are deceived by the false statements of interested parties in Canada. They frankly avow their design to grasp the control of university education, to obtain such an alteration in the Election Law as will exempt the priests from the penalties it denounces against undue influence, to enforce the restoration of the Jesuits' estates, and the abolition of all traces of laicism in the Public and Normal Schools. To this party belong Bishops Bourget and Lafleche and the majority of the priests of the dioceses of Montreal and Three Rivers. Their aim, frankly avowed, is to restore the Province of Quebec to the condition of a Catholic country of the Middle Ages. The Jesuits represent themselves and their party as the subjects of rigorous persecution by the highest ecclesiastical authorities in the land; and while they claim to be the only true Catholics in the country they are met by constant rebuffs at Rome. September 22, 1876, was the day of their greatest triumph. On that day they succeeded in inducing the united episcopate of Quebec to sign a joint letter embodying many of their extreme demands. The scandalous abuse of the power of the priests in the elections that followed led to adverse decisions in the civil courts, and as a consequence to a Roman delegate being sent out. The author of this pamphlet charges Mgr. Conroy with writing a retraction of the joint letter and inducing the bishops by false representations to sign it. The question of demanding the alteration in our Election Law desired by the Jesuits has been decided against them at Rome. From the De Boucherville Government they extracted a promise of \$400,000 in lieu of a restoration of the Jesuits' estates; but even here they blame the archbishop with interfering to prevent the carrying out of the bargain. This interference they charge to the Seminary of Quebec. The alleged wish of the Pope, they say, is constantly and often falsely, used against them. The Bishop of Montreal placed this pamphlet under interdict, and almost every copy disappeared with marvellous celerity. It gives the best exposition of the aims of the Jesuits in Quebec that has ever appeared in print, and it may be taken for granted that many of the priests have taken the best care of their copies since the bishop ordered them to be burnt.