

It has come even sooner than might have been expected, and perhaps before there is force enough in the youthful Province to assert its freedom against the power of the Ottawa Government. The local leader of the Government party, however, seems to feel that for the present it is useless to contend against the storm, and that his only course is to put himself before the wind. The heads of the Syndicate are men of sense as well as honour; they cannot fail to see that enactments restraining the free development of a new country, by whatever authority framed, can never be enrolled in the statute book of nature. The Pope's grant of Monopoly Clauses to Spain after the discovery of the New World was very likely legal, as the public law of Europe then stood, but was treated by enterprise as null. That the Province would permanently allow its commercial interests to be sacrificed to those of a line laid out with a political object, could not seriously be supposed. On the other hand, the public faith must be kept; the contract has been solemnly made; and if the Company gives up its restrictions in compliance with the protest of Manitoba it will have a right to a full indemnity at the hands of the Dominion. More money Canada will hardly be induced to give. From first to last she has already paid, or bound herself to pay in different ways, some sixty millions besides land grants. Her people must begin to see that great as is the acquisition of this new country to the world at large, the gain is not likely to be great to them. For the present she has the command of the North-Western market; but as soon as the fiscal restrictions are severely felt, the Province will rebel against them as it has rebelled against those of the Railway Charter, and insist on buying what it pleases in the most convenient markets, wherever those markets may be. In the meantime, Ontario loses her best farmers and the value of her farms is reduced. It is scarcely possible to touch the political question without setting passion in a flame. But does any one seriously believe that a great country like the North-West will remain under the political dominion of a small country like Canada, from which it is separated by an inland sea, or by a wilderness which, even when a road is made through it, will be as estranging as any sea? At present the bulk of the population are