

tage of the personal popularity of Sir John Macdonald. This last reason we suspect to be the most operative with the party. The brevity of his own remaining span of political life is not likely to occur to the Chieftain himself as an argument in favour of hastening the march of events, nor is any one likely to suggest it to him. He is, no doubt, watching anxiously the course of events in Quebec. The Ross Ministry, it seems, now counts on a majority of two. Even if that expectation is fulfilled, a Government which is itself hobbling on so weak a crutch can hardly be a very strong support to its confederate at Ottawa. But it will still have the patronage in its hands. The uncertainty as to the time of the next election is, therefore, not yet at an end. It is needless to repeat the arguments which appear to us to prove that there ought to be no uncertainty about the matter, inasmuch as it is the duty of the Governor-General to refuse a causeless and irregular dissolution.

THAT the Home Rule movement in Nova Scotia has been pounced upon for party purposes is very likely: party pounces on everything, even the cerebral conformation of Riel. That the movement is altogether factitious and hollow we do not believe. In the *Nineteenth Century* Mrs. Fellows sets forth reasons for dissatisfaction with Confederation, which to a Nova Scotian, at any rate, may seem solid. To begin with, when Nova Scotia entered Confederation, her debt was eight or nine millions; her share of the Dominion debt to-day is twenty-eight millions, and of the increase of Dominion debt she sees no end. What is worse, her trade, instead of increasing, has declined; her wharves have lost value; and she says with bitter sarcasm that two blades of grass have indeed been made to grow where only one grew before—in the streets. The true commercial relations of Nova Scotia are not with Quebec and the Provinces beyond it, but with New England; that is the real ground and burden of Mrs. Fellows's complaint. We can easily believe that the attempt to force industries unfavoured by nature into existence by Protection has proved no compensation for the loss of natural trade. The feeling that she was sold (as assuredly she was) by Joseph Howe, and dragged into the Confederation by the hair of her head, naturally rankles in the mind of Nova Scotia since the result has been disappointing. The Nova Scotian Home Rulers do not want to go out of the Empire; they want to make their Province again a British colony, managing its own affairs under the protection of the Mother Country. What has Nova Scotia or any Province gained by being brought under the Government of Ottawa except a vast increase of debt, and an equally vast increase of corruption? In what respect would Manitoba, for example, have suffered if, instead of being a dependency and too often a dust-bin of Ottawa, she had been working out her own destinies under a governor appointed direct from England, who would have been, as they all were, a man of honour, have perpetrated no jobs, and kept on good terms with the Indians? The Grits, after their victory in Ontario, are shouting that the end of the system of corruption is at hand. That the end of a system of corruption is at hand must be welcome news to all good men. But when corruption is gone, and the Grits and purity are in power, what is the bond which they hope will take the place of corruption in holding all these Provinces together? The attachment of French Quebec to a British nationality? The sense of common interest which binds the commercial classes of Nova Scotia?

"JOHN A. MACDONALD is politically a dead man," shouts Gritism after its triumph in Ontario. This is rapturous, but premature. Experience proves that the vote of Ontario may go one way in a Provincial, and the other in a Dominion election. It would not be very surprising were Sir John Macdonald, a few months hence, to sweep the Province as triumphantly as his enemy sweeps it now, if he can only offer the people something that they really want. A principal cause of the defeat of the Provincial Conservatives was their poverty of leading men. Something also was done by the Gerrymander, which, in the Dominion election, would be on the other side. Still, it does appear that the enthusiasm, which greeted Sir John on the stump, and raised the hopes of his party so high, was, at all events, more personal and less indicative of political hold upon the country than his followers imagined. It certainly was not called forth by the political contents of his speeches. The Conservatives have undoubtedly to look to the near future, and to consider how and on what basis, when Sir John has withdrawn from public life, their Government is to be reconstructed. Among other things they must bear in mind that their party has hitherto been a one-man power; that principles or questions will have hereafter to take the place of personal influence, and that, while the one man not unnaturally prefers personal dependents, sometimes not of the highest order, reconstruction will require the support of men who have some moral hold upon the country.

WE are threatened with an avalanche of knighthoods and gewgaws of all descriptions in honour—it would be nearer the truth to say in ridicule—of the Queen's Jubilee. The report that an effort is being made to limit the number to two thousand sounds like a satirical canard, but we will venture to say that there are at least twice two thousand aspirants. Any one who happens to have seen the private correspondence of a British Minister must have formed an enlarged idea of the silly vanity of mankind. It is futile, we fear, to repeat that rank not conferred by the public voice, whatever may be its uses in old countries, is utterly alien, not only to the democratic prejudices, but to the soundest instincts of society in the New World; that it has been sometimes lavished by the inevitable blindness of the Home Government on the most conspicuous undesert, and that its general effects are evil. There is a special absurdity in the creation of hereditary titles, which, as we have happily no entailed estates, may be borne in the second generation by a shoeblack. By refusing knighthood Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Blake have rendered a service to this community which ought never to be forgotten. Honour bestowed because a man happened to be in office in a particular year is surely as perfect a travesty of the system as satire could devise. Any attempt, by the introduction of aristocratic distinctions, to set Canada against her democratic neighbour can only be mischievous. It is by her friendly vote in the councils of her own continent that she can give real assistance to her Mother Country.

THE last advice from the British Minister at Washington casts a gleam of hope on the unblest Fisheries question; but we fear the gleam will prove delusive. The difficulty is not diplomatic, but political. The American Senate being Republican will block any treaty or arrangement made by a Democratic President. Reciprocity is blocked in the same way, while domestic legislation at Washington is blocked by the antagonism between the House, which is still Democratic, and the Senate, which is Republican. Moreover, the Government itself begins to feel the influence of the coming Presidential election. Mr. Blaine's programme is a spirited foreign policy; that is, a policy of insult and menace to Great Britain. Of course he watches the negotiations on the Fisheries question with malignant vigilance, and would pounce at once upon anything like concession to Great Britain. The disposition of the President and of Mr. Bayard is undoubtedly friendly to an honourable settlement; but even they cannot emancipate themselves from the tyranny of faction.

A CORRESPONDENT suggests that it would be an improvement if the office of Lord Lieutenant in Ireland were neutralised, instead of being a party appointment. Party, he says, will be sufficiently represented by the Secretary. But whenever a vacancy occurred, the Prime Minister for the time being would still have to make the appointment, so that the odour of party would still adhere to the office. The only effectual mode of doing what our correspondent recommends, so far as we can see, would be to make the Prince of Wales or the heir to the Crown, whoever he might be, *ex officio* Viceroy of Ireland. But nothing that could be done with the office of Lord Lieutenant would make, we apprehend, much difference in the situation.

THE real political grievance, as we have said before, is the necessity of resorting to Westminster for Irish Private Bill legislation, which unquestionably involves a provoking amount of trouble, delay, and expense. It is as a remedy for this evil that Lord Monck and others, who are not Separatists, propose an Irish Parliament with restricted powers. But an Irish Parliament, restrict its powers as you may by statute, will be under existing circumstances an extremely perilous, as well as a most cumbersome and inordinately expensive, instrument for the accomplishment of so limited an object as the reduction of the trouble and cost of Private Bill legislation. Many sessions of such an assembly would not be held before the struggle to break through the supreme legislative power would commence, and all the arguments which are now used in favour of the concession would acquire double force when used in favour of yielding to the demand that the concession should be made complete. An Irish Parliament would involve the institution of an Irish Executive, with a whole apparatus of government and all the attendant expenditure. The natural, sufficient, and at the same time safe and inexpensive, remedy, as we submitted before, is a Grand Committee of the Irish Members for Irish Private Bill legislation, which should be empowered to sit at Dublin during the recess, and upon the report of which, Parliament should pass the Bills. As the Committee would be appointed from year to year, and would have no power of legislating, but only the power of reporting to Parliament in favour of legislation, there would be no fear of its attempting to break its constitutional bounds, and grasp the functions of the supreme legislature.