

probation had witnessed the wreck of many of the promises and professions made at its inception. Added to these were a weak Cabinet and an extremely unpopular fiscal policy. From all parts of the country came wails of distress. Anvils were silent; looms idle; furnaces fireless. Dissatisfaction prevailed all over, and a restlessly anxious people were willing to make any change likely to give the least hope for the future. Argument, logic and authorities were of no avail. A scheme far more ridiculous and chimerical than the National Policy would have been accepted by the people in their longing for a change. The leaders and the party were both lost sight of, and the electorate seemed only impressed with the one idea that there was a possibility, remote as it might be, of an improvement taking place if only Sir John Macdonald became Premier. This was the adventure upon which he rode into power. His sincerity cannot now be questioned. Time alone will give opportunities of testing it. We may, perhaps, after looking at his past career and considering his past utterances, particularly those upon the Budget of 1868, in which he declared that some portions of the great National Policy worked oppressively upon certain sections of our people, be allowed to have our doubts. Miss Mar-