

and, at the same time, to the policy to which that undertaking belonged. It even gave a heavy pledge to Militarism by founding the Kingston College. Its present leader has dallied with Imperial Federation, which implies, together with a retrocession of self-government, contribution to Imperial armaments, and full participation in Imperial wars. For ourselves, we unfeignedly deplore the necessity of an appeal to party at all, and look forward with earnest hope to the day when, instead of calling upon one set of statesmen to oppose and thwart another set as antagonists and rivals, we may be able to call upon them all to combine their councils and do what to their united wisdom appears best for the country. We say this with special emphasis on the present occasion, when the nation has been brought into peril by an enterprise for which all our public men are more or less responsible, and for their connection with which all of them may plead the excuse of a general illusion, the off-spring of intoxicating prosperity, and, of the haze of exaggeration with which the flattering rhetoric of official seekers after popularity had enveloped our affairs. But for the present the party system is established; we must take it as it is, and look to the Opposition under its new leadership to check the Government, which is not only itself bent on pursuing its perilous course, but beset, we may be sure, by a band of contractors and contract-mongers, such as these great public works always call into being, eager for the prosecution of an enterprise which promises immense private gains. The Grit organ itself is hardly louder in denouncing the prudence which would check the enterprise than it is in proclaiming the corruption which attends it; as though corruption were not an inherent part of all large government undertakings of this kind. It would not be surprising if some scandalous revelation were to give the Opposition a handle which they might use without having to make any awkward reference to the history of their own proceedings in a previous state of existence.