

Government having a large majority, and no special occasion for an appeal to the people having arisen. But it was thought desirable to snap a verdict on the Government policy. A dissolution was therefore resolved upon, and for this a pretext had to be found. The pretext first put forth was that a negotiation for Reciprocity was on foot with the Government at Washington, and that for this a popular mandate was required. This pretext was at once demolished by a published letter of Mr. Blaine, the American Secretary of State, declaring that no negotiations whatever were on foot between the two countries. The Ministers then fell back on the story of a conspiracy formed for the purpose of betraying Canada to the Americans, to which they pretended that the leaders of the Canadian Liberals generally were parties. The proofs produced by them for the existence of this conspiracy were :—

1. The Farrer Pamphlet, so called; for it seems to have been in reality not a pamphlet or intended for circulation, but a sort of brief on the American side of the Fisheries case, prepared by Mr. Farrer, as a professional journalist, for his American correspondents. The proof-sheets of this document were purloined from the printing office and put into the hands of the Tory leaders by a printer, who for that act was disgraced by his Union, but was rewarded by the late Sir John Thompson with an appointment to the Department of Justice. Neither the Liberal leaders nor anyone else had anything whatever to do with Mr. Farrer's brief or any knowledge of its existence. An attempt to connect