

some measure from the dominion of faction, and make government more national. Had he done this, his career would have closed gloriously. But among the tests of greatness, some one has numbered the power of taking in new ideas after fifty, and the difficulty of the fact is increased when the old ideas block the avenues of the mind in the shape of comrades and expectant partisans. The only move in the direction of a broader basis has been the employment, we fear we ought rather to say the waste, of Sir Alexander Galt. It is something, however, that Sir John Macdonald has always been true to the public interest in the appointment of judges: let us hope that he will persevere in this course, and follow the good example of the British Government, which now sets aside party altogether in most of the judicial appointments, reserving only the very highest as the rewards of its Law Officers. In the country, unless all visible symptoms deceive us, the feeling against Partyism, and in favour of National Government, gains ground. The process is slow, of course, because the existing system is of long standing, deeply rooted in habit, and supported by powerful organizations, the members of which have a personal interest in its continuance. But to say that a reform is difficult, and probably distant, is not to despair. If patriotic citizens are satisfied that National Government is better for the community than government by faction, and if they will keep the object steadily in view, and press towards it whenever an opening is presented, a happy moment may at length arrive, and the "impracticable" and "chimerical" may all at once become a fact.

—The *Montreal Journal of Commerce* will not let THE BYSTANDER alone. Perhaps its manager would himself prefer, like his excellent compeer, the *Toronto Monetary Times*, to exclude politics and, still more, personalities from his columns. But he, no doubt, finds Sir Francis Hincks irrepressible as well as inexhaustible. We mete to Sir Francis Hincks with his own measure, as he chooses, in defiance of the rules of the profession,