

CURRENT EVENTS.

THE events which have occurred in the Parliament at Ottawa, have fully justified our views as to the merits of the parties immediately connected with the great Pacific Railway scandal and exceeded our expectations. When we last wrote on this subject we feared that the spirit of party would carry the day against right and conscience; that the honour of our young nation was about to be tarnished so as that no future effort could brighten it; that political morality among us would henceforward be a by-word; and that, radically corrupt, we could only look forward to a fuller development of still more nefarious transactions, conducted without disguise, and to which would be attached no disgrace. We have been agreeably disappointed. It was confidently predicted by the favourers of the Government that they would have a considerable majority, but as the debate proceeded, conviction that the action of the Premier was utterly indefensible deepened; and defection from the ranks of his supporters followed, and dismay sat on their countenances; and, we may confidently affirm, that at the last there was not a single member of the House wished to record his vote in favour of Sir John A. McDonald's transactions with Sir Hugh Allen. The Government did wisely, we may say, well, in resigning before a vote. We think with dismay of its supporters at the conclusion of the debate going into division on one side, while their sense of right drew them to the other, and we are heartily glad that the exigency of the situation did not compel this last, greatest, of all sacrifices—the wholesale immolation of conscience on the altar of political expediency.

From what we had, as we thought, learned accurately, of the position of the representatives from P. E. I., we discredited them in thinking that they would vote with the Government. Indeed we should have known some of these gentlemen better than to suppose that any material advantage to their country would prevent them from doing what was right. They acted, we will not say, nobly, but at least conscientiously, and that is much in these days of dereliction of duty, and tendency to weigh all things in the scale of expediency. We have to thank them because, probably, had they been less true, a condonation of the offence charged and proved might have been made: and the men who have dragged our Dominion through the mire might now be rejoicing in the successful issue of their corrupt bargaining, and demoralization of the Politics of the country.

We have read most of the speeches delivered on this "Scandal." We do not care to say what we think of some of those delivered in defence of the corrupt transactions. They were quite as good as could be expected under the circumstances. If you ask a man to justify what in his heart he condemns, you need not expect much.