

atism in England is a party; it has principles, or at least objects of its own: it remains a living organism, though the pulse of its life beats low. But who can define the principles or the objects of Conservatism in Canada? What is it that the Orangeman of Ontario and the Ultramontane of Quebec desire in common? What would hold them together if the manager's hand were removed? The principle upon which the party rode into power in 1878 was Commercial Independence, which its leader has now proclaimed in no ambiguous terms. Commercial Independence is a very good thing; but is it the special tenet of Conservatives? Do we not remember the time when Conservatives would have denounced it as treason? Loyalty, both the parties profess, and we do in our conscience believe that they both profess it with equal sincerity: of that, indeed, the Home Rule Address, lately adopted by them in common, is the proof. At the present moment Conservatism happens to be identified with centralization, while Liberalism is identified with Provincial Right: but this is merely an accident of the war: in federations the party in possession of the Federal Government is naturally inclined to an extension of the central power, which the other party as naturally resists. Put Mr. Blake in the place of Sir John Macdonald, and there will be disputes between the Grit Ottawa and the Conservative Quebec, the counterparts of those which are now going on between the Conservative Ottawa and the Grit Ontario. A Bleu Mowat will be calling his province to arms, and a Liberal Macdonald will be charging him with conspiring against the integrity of the Dominion. If the Party system were sound, its operation would not be thus dependent on the life of a man.

—Though the public affairs of Ontario are not tending in the right direction, they are not so far gone in the wrong direction as are those of Quebec. If Ontario is living on her capital she has still capital to live on, and her public men, though servants of faction and no saints, keep themselves, for the most part, in decent moral vogue; they may job but they do not steal. Quebec has nearly reached the bottom of the descent. French character,