

Imperial Federation, and no one has had the courage to undertake to explain how it can be got over. Imperial Federation means, for the colonies, writing history backwards: surrendering franchises which have been won by many years of patient effort; about the last thing to which any self-governing dependency would be likely to give its consent.

THE Brown statue has arrived in the city and will shortly adorn the solitudes of Queen's Park. The installation will be the apotheosis of Party in the person of the late Senator Brown. In this young country public statues reared to commemorate the virtue of public men are but few. The monuments to Brock at Queenston, and to Wolfe and Montcalm at Quebec, at once strike the beholder as appropriate and not without meaning. The so-called "victims of 1837" at Montreal introduce us to another class of monument. The Cartier monument comes before the Party chief is merged in the national representative; and the Brown memorial opens the vista to a possible forest of Party statues. People of very diverse ways of thinking may find something to admire in the subject of the brazen eulogy. As a *mangeur des prêtres*, the anti-clericals of Belgium might join in the homage to the deceased journalist; and the Canadian priests owe absolution to the politician for having consented to graft the Separate School system on the Federal Constitution of Canada. Advocates of representation by population in Ontario may thank the journalist for his persistent advocacy of their favourite principle; the partisans of equality of representation, as between the Provinces, whose home was Quebec, may thank the politician for suppressing any strong expression of the opposite principle in the Legislature. Whether, when the Brown-Dorion ministry was formed, Mr. Brown agreed to keep numerical representation in abeyance, as some of his colleagues averred, or whether he refused to consent to the postponement, as he alleged, those who think that he did can give him credit, though it should be at the expense of his candour, for having done so. Those who think that he did not agree to postponement, and ought not to have done so, can, in charity, take the lenient view of the disputed facts. History will have to deal with the weight of evidence in favour of the contradictory allegations, and she will not allow even a bronze monument to turn the scale; but among the living generation there are people whose courage is robust enough to sustain them in their preconceptions in spite of all the adverse verdicts which may be pronounced. Reformers, taking a general view of a somewhat chequered career, may do homage to the memory of the journalist and politician; and even the Tories, in recollection of the support which he gave, at one general election, to the party led by Sir Allan McNab, ought not to be wholly insensible to gratitude for the assistance rendered to their cause by this extra-parliamentary coalition. Even the shades of men on whom the unjust criticism of the journalist fell while they were in the flesh, may forbear to seek vengeance by haunting the brazen statue in the lonely park, in consideration of the usual eulogy which death inevitably brought. All who think that Mr. Brown did right when he accepted the political embrace of Sir John Macdonald, and all who are equally certain that he performed an act of patriotism in deserting the coalition before its work was done, can together bring their meed of admiration to the foot of the molten statue. Can any one give us a reason why all these people should not assist in the inauguration of the Brown statue?

THE reasons for haste in the construction of the Pacific Railway, when haste is being objected to, ought to be fairly stated. On the admission of British Columbia into the Canadian Confederation Parliament, wisely or unwisely, agreed to build a railway to the Pacific Ocean within ten years. This was found impossible of accomplishment, and an extension of time was obtained. But the consent of British Columbia to delay was reluctantly given, and discontent in the Pacific Province was rife; among the objections were heard mutterings of possible secession. Parliament, as a matter of good faith, and on grounds of public policy, decided last Session that the construction should be pushed on at a rate that would ensure a completed railway by the end of the year 1885. It was on this express ground that it sanctioned the loan. The company accepted the condition, and set to work loyally to carry out the wishes of Parliament. It is understood that the work will be finished in the prescribed time, with perhaps a couple of months margin in favour of the company. This expectation rests on the authority of the chief engineer of the Government, Mr. Schrieber. Nothing could be more unreasonable than to blame the company for shortening the time of construction for which Parliament is responsible. That the work has been well done is the testimony of all competent judges, who are in a position to express an opinion. The motive to do good work is stronger in the case of the Canadian Pacific Company than with contractors who have no interest in the work beyond the pay

it brings, and that this motive has had its effect can easily be seen in the character of the road that has been built. The best steel rails have been used, and the bridges are good and substantial; and if there was any doubt as to the character of the road which the contract bound the Company to build there is none as to how the road that has been built is to be classed. A first-class road is undoubtedly being secured. Scamping railway work is not unknown in Canada; it would be easy to point out instances where, in consequence of bad iron being used, the rails had to be renewed long before the time had expired by which the life of good rails is measured. A company which does its work well is not fairly open to attack on the ground of haste. Celerity in construction for reasons of its own, rightly or wrongly—and it is the supreme judge of the matter—Parliament demanded. If that was a mistake, politically or economically, it is not a mistake for which the Company can be called to account. If dilatoriness had been shown, if the requisite energy for so vast an undertaking had been wanting, there would have been good ground for hostile criticism, and fierce indeed the criticism would have been. The astonishing results achieved by the company won candid commendation from the justice of Mr. Mackenzie; and we regret to see that there is a total want of similar frankness and fairness in quarters where, at one time, Mr. Mackenzie's influence would have been felt.

THE abrupt close of the Mercier Commission is producing an after-clap, the resonance of which may possibly be heard for some time. In the later sittings a set attempt was made to discredit M. Trudel who, having acted as the friend of M. Mercier in the \$5,000 business, was one of the most competent witnesses against him, as he was, the honey having turned to gall, one of the bitterest. Witnesses not a few swore that they would not believe him on oath, and others as readily swore that he was entirely trustworthy. In parrying the attack, M. Trudel swore that he had frequently purchased one of the hostile witnesses, a journalist, of which transactions he professed to have documentary proof. When asked to produce the letters he prevaricated, first saying they were at his house, and then immediately after that he did not know where they were. The next time the Commission met M. Trudel was to have an opportunity of making good his charge. The sittings ordinarily commenced at eleven or half-past eleven o'clock; this time it met at half-past ten, and M. Trudel was not present. Having some business that would detain him a short time in the court house, he telephoned thence to one of the advocates for M. Mercier, before the Commission, saying he would not be able to arrive in less than twenty minutes, and asking the Commission to give him so much grace. M. Amyot answered "all right" (*c'est correct*). Before M. Trudel arrived the Commission had closed, throwing out his entire evidence in the case on the ground that the witness refused to appear to be cross-examined. Trudel says he remained at the court-house a quarter of an hour after he telephoned M. Amyot; the Commission, it is said, waited altogether half an hour before concluding that he did not intend to come. When he did arrive, he asked to be allowed to continue his evidence, but the case was declared closed and he was not heard. But he repeats the charge in the press, and says that he is ready to prove, before any court, the truth of the statement. The incriminated journalist cannot afford to refuse to accept the challenge; but we are not aware that he has so far signified his intention of doing so. The charge against M. Mercier did not rest on the sole evidence of M. Trudel; but the whole case was so enveloped in a mist of political passion that it would have been difficult for the most passionless eye to see the exact degree of blame attaching to the hostile actors. M. Mercier himself admits that he took an excessive fee, which would not have been allowed on taxation, and that when trouble came he was willing to pay the surplus back.

AN overture was made some time ago to the Editor of this journal by an American firm which proposed to bring out a group of chromo-litho portraits of representatives of the Canadian Press. The overture was ultimately declined. But the firm has now brought out a sheet of portraits, among which is introduced that of a writer who, though a Contributor to this journal, is not its Editor, and would not have consented to appear in that character, or be in any way connected with the production. The editor of THE WEEK can only say, that if any annoyance has been caused to his contributor, he regrets it, but is in no way to blame. The sheet is a strange collection altogether, inasmuch as it contains no representative of the *Mail*, the *World*, the *London Free Press*, the *Hamilton Times*, the *Montreal Herald*, the *Quebec Chronicle*, or any Ottawa journal. The comic press is also unrepresented; while the social press is represented in a manner calculated to make some members of the group feel not very proud of their company.