

the present Conservative party of this Province. But all experience is against the expectation that any large number of Conservatives will leave their party for any reason.

Reformers are in this position: All that is good and ripe for action in the platform of the New Party is

#### ALREADY IN THE PLATFORM

of the Reform party, and always has been. For example, with respect to "Righteousness and truth in our public affairs," I am as anxious for this to be so as the Rev. President of the New Party can be; and the Reform party as a body hold to that principle quite as firmly as any of the New Party can. So also, in regard to "Equal Rights for all." There is no good and true sense in which that plank can be taken that the principle does not find a home in the Liberal party of this Province. Every intelligent Reformer knows this.

The Reform party when in power has exemplified these principles as thoroughly as any, however pure its purpose, could do. The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was the leader of a Reform Government in the Dominion from 1873 to 1878; Reformers point with pride to the purity of his administration all that time; and its character in this respect is very generally admitted now-a-days by intelligent and fair-minded Conservatives also. In fact, Canadians generally feel a pride in the uprightness of the Canadian Administration during those five years; and, unless where it is politically inexpedient to make the admission, and where political expediency rules, they are heard speaking in that spirit. It was the devotion of Mr. Mackenzie and his Government to what they believed "righteousness and truth" that caused their defeat in 1878. The people were in considerable distress at that time from causes which were beyond Government control. Whether Protection and a high tariff would relieve the distress and be a good thing otherwise, was a question as to which men might honestly differ, and did differ. Neither Conservatives nor Reformers had previously been Protectionists, or advocates of a tariff higher than was necessary for revenue purposes. The Conservative leaders were still in bad odor from the discoveries which had led to their defeat in 1873. As the General elections of 1878 were approaching, they looked around for a Cry to help them out of the mire, and, fortunately for themselves, they hit upon

#### THE CRY OF PROTECTION,

though at the time as a kind of forlorn hope. Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues did not believe that Protection was a good