

To contend that there has been no alteration in the policy of the Government is surely hopeless. The primary object of the measure of 1879 was stated in the Speech from the Throne to be the equalization of revenue with expenditure. To say that another object, at variance with that, was kept in the background would be to assume disingenuousness on the part of the framers of the speech and connivance on the part of the august speaker. Protection, in the proper sense of the term, and revenue, are manifestly incompatible. Throughout the campaign Sir John Macdonald avoided in a marked manner Protectionist language, and confined himself scrupulously to readjustment. Readjustment included the rectification of our tariff, in its relation to that of the United States, as a measure of justice to our producers. This was avowed plainly enough, and it is encouragement to native industry, but it is not Protection. The Finance Minister, the tide running strong, has been carried out to sea : there is no use in contending that his moorings remain unchanged.

The Opposition is weakened in the financial field by disunion. Mr. Charlton, and apparently Mr. Blake, stands upon what we still hold to be the safe ground of National Policy. They no doubt deplore the obstinate devotion to the abstract and the impracticable, which brought on the catastrophe of 1878. But Mr. Mackenzie, stung by defeat, has nailed his tattered colours to the mast, and misses no opportunity of giving an advantage to the Protectionists by vehemently reasserting the doctrine of Absolute Free Trade. Absolute Free Trade means the abolition of all import duties, and the raising of the whole revenue by direct or internal taxation. Mr. Mackenzie holds up to us the example of the Mother Country. A brighter or better we could not have, particularly as regards her fiscal system, the work of the most consummate financiers whom the world ever saw. But the Mother Country raises a large revenue by import duties, which interfere quite as much as ours with Absolute Free Trade ; and she adapts her tariff to her commercial circumstances, which differ from ours