

whether ministers had their confidence; and that he should have insisted on finding from the Parliament when met, whether he was justified in retaining them in the service of the country. The appointment of a Royal Commission, however, might seem to Lord Dufferin the only legitimate way left of sifting the charges made against the ministers of the crown, seeing that the Committee appointed by the House had failed. We must do him justice to think that he was anxious to have the case of the ministers tried before a calm judicial Court, rather than in the arena of popular debate. Events too may justify Lord Dufferin. The House of Commons will meet after some time in a calmer mood, without fear of having its time for deliberation shortened, when every one will have his full swing of argument, and when no precipitancy will appear needful. The press is much calmer in its tone now than it was at the time of prorogation, and Parliament, we hope, will catch its spirit and deal with the whole case, when it meets, in a dignified and just way.

The low—exceedingly low morality of our public men is brought out in the stealing and publishing of the McDonald-Pope letter. That the Hon. Mr. Young should have suborned a post office official to steal letters for him we cannot suppose. That having had it sent to him, he took counsel with some political friends and published it in the interests of public morality, we have on his own testimony. If Mr. Young and his associates in publishing the letter, had been newly arrived from a military campaign in which the rules of war, regarding the actions and designs of the enemy were in force, we might apologize for them by supposing that they had carried their soldierly ideas into the realms of politics. But though we can in the topsy-turvyness of war see the cognateness and propriety of intercepting the enemy's despatches, we fail to see the admissibility of such a course in the figurative warfare of politics. If we were undergoing the throes of revolution, we might admit the course which was adopted by these gentlemen, but it has not come to that yet. We are still in a state of peace. The intercourse even of politicians should be conducted on principles of honor. Granted that the letter was exasperative; that Sir John A. McDonald and Mr. Pope were pursuing Mr. Young to his detriment, still, honour should have suggested that information, received by means of theft, had a flavor of villainy about it which would prevent any one of true gentlemanly feeling from having anything to do with it. Instead of publishing Sir John's letter, Mr. Young should have, at once, returned it to its owner and author. The question about the genuineness of the letter has in it no apology for the use made of it, when its genuineness was established.

The share which McMullen has had in this transaction is very discreditable to himself. He does what he can to secure for himself and co-partners their prey through Sir Hugh and the Premier,