

thorough believer in party will hardly deny. Party, we know, has had and still has its uses. Party won for Canada the measure of self-government which she possesses. Without party the Great Charter could not have been extorted from a tyrant; the House of Commons could not have been founded; the liberties of England could not have been rescued from the Stuarts; Parliament could not have been reformed in 1832. In the Mother Country a great struggle is still going on between aristocracy and democracy, and between their respective policies in Church and State, and the contending masses are divided by a real line: though even in the Mother Country there are symptoms of a decline of the system, and the attempt of Sir Robert Peel to rise above party and govern in the interest of the whole country carried with it the sympathy of the people, and was seconded by the best public men of that day. But what real line divides parties in this country? What are their principles but shadowy reminiscences of the state of things before Confederation, or even before the revolution of 1837? Not many years ago the leaders of both were members of the same Cabinet; and the old lines were drawn again not by any spontaneous movement of the people, but by personal enmity. At the last general election there was an important issue, but it was economical, not political; it was not raised by either of the parties, but pressed on both by an independent movement in the country; and the party which then leaped on the National Policy as the horse that would carry it back to power, had not ridden that steed before. Party, without a difference of principles, is faction; and what the fruits of faction have been in all countries, but especially in free countries, we know too well. All its evils are now plainly visible among us in the blade, if not in the full ear. Among other things, there is a most portentous growth of the class of camp-followers, who, instead of making their bread by honest industry, want to live upon the public. The applications for places since the change of Government are said to have amounted to thousands. What the political profession under