

commercial enterprise nobody would think of interfering, though it were to project a railway to the North Pole.

—It was hardly reasonable to expect that Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie would say anything important about politics at the dinner of the National Club. In the first place, they might by so doing, have “waked with war-cry the wassail hour;” the club containing members of all shades of opinion, to some of whom any sentiment strongly expressed would have been offensive. In the second place, it was not likely either that Mr. Mackenzie could unbosom himself before Mr. Blake, or that Mr. Blake would unbosom himself before Mr. Mackenzie. A more delicate operation could not be imagined than a public interchange of ideas on the policy of the Opposition between the old and the new leader. Each just indicated his position. Through the speech of Mr. Mackenzie there ran an undertone of sorrow over the inability of the old shrivelled wine-skin of Gritism to hold the new wine of Liberal opinion. Mr. Blake intimated his sympathy with bolder councils, though under the usual form of advocating Imperial Federation. A surrender of self-government, in return for an almost nominal representation, which would be rendered still more ineffective by the influence of London Society on the representatives of the Colonies; acceptance of a share in the burden of Imperial taxation for the maintenance of the Federal armaments; full and direct participation in wars made for objects utterly remote from Canadian interests, by a diplomacy over which Canada would have no control—such, all must see, would be the certain consequences to us of Imperial Federation. Is Mr. Blake prepared for them? We cannot believe that he is, or that he means anything more than that the present situation cannot last, and that he is ready for a change. But the Admiral must not make false signals. Besides, Mr. Blake may be entrapped. Had Lord Beaconsfield remained in office and carried his schemes into effect, he would have been sure to quote