

empire; but, at many of the public meetings which have been held of late, they have intimated very plainly that their loyalty is conditional; and that a continuation of imperial injustice may produce effects similar to those which it produced in the days of George the Third. The threat implied is somewhat more worthy of consideration than that flaunted in the face of the Select Committee by the Right Honourable Edward Ellice, when he said that if the privileges of the Company were abolished, its agents and servants in the country would maintain them against all intruders. The excitement in Canada is all the more serious because the local Government appears to have been playing into the hands of the monopolists. At a price merely nominal, it has made over to the Hudson's Bay Company various lots of land situated at the mouths of great rivers and lakes on the Canadian frontier, the obvious purpose of the Company, in making the acquisition, being to prevent the establishment of marts of commerce in those localities. Their Chief Justice, Mr. Draper, who was deputed to give evidence before the Select Committee, and attend to Canadian interests, betrayed his trust, as they allege; and a very active partisan of the Company has recently been appointed Solicitor General under the Canadian Government. On the other hand, the Americans are daily encroaching on the Company's game preserve and taking possession of valuable lands, which, but for its chartered and licensed monopoly, would long since have been occupied by flourishing communities of British subjects. But, even if the people of Canada agree to the compromise proposed, the commercial, manufacturing, and industrial classes of this country ought to protest against it; and if they be wise they will take care, by public meetings, petitions, and personal remonstrances with their representatives, that there shall be no mistake, either on the part of their new rulers, or of the parliament, respecting their views of what is right and just between these monopolists and the empire.

The corrupt and fatuous policy which has so long fostered and