

course making the most grotesque exhibitions of themselves, in their efforts to stir up a storm in a tea-pot. The smaller the pit the fiercer the rats fight. It will be better for Prince Edward Island when her sons, with soaring ambition and pugnacious disposition, can find a wider field at Ottawa, in which to measure themselves with foemen worthy of their steel. If, however, through the influence of political hate, or Jesuitical machinations, or any other cause, the present terms of Union should be rejected, it may be long before others equally favourable are placed at the disposal of the Islanders.

England has had her political crisis also, though it has been tided over for the present, and with an astonishing amount of dignity too. Whatever other charge may be brought against Mr. Gladstone, he certainly has, on more than one occasion, shewn an almost over-scrupulous desire to interpret the verdict of public opinion as being hostile to himself. His readiness to resign whenever an adverse vote takes place is often attributed to the testiness of his character, a charge which may have some foundation. At all events, whatever may have been the motives which actuated him in the late crisis, nothing could be better fitted to restore him to his former position in the public mind than his quiet resignation, his cheerful abandonment of all intrigue and negotiation, his dignified reserve while his opponents were taking counsel, and his absolute refusal to resume the reins of power until they had decided to unconditionally abandon their intention of trying to organize a cabinet. There has been, it seems, no change in the *personnel* of the administration, a result none the less to be regretted because it was to be expected. The prime minister's sense of dignity and his chivalry would not admit of his making a scape-goat of even Mr. Ayrton at such a time, though if the rejuvenated cabinet is to survive, it cannot long avoid the ordeal of reconstruction. Once a Tory of the Tories, Mr. Gladstone has verged so constantly and rapidly towards the other pole that he is now far more in sympathy with the Radical element among his bifurcated following than with the Whigs who accompanied him of yore under the lead of Lord Palmerston. The result of the inevitable progress of public opinion has left Earl Russell long ago on the conservative side of the political dividing line; the rearrangement of political landmarks, after the present ones have been effaced by the next political tidal wave, will doubtless throw another batch of conservative Whigs across the fence to swell the thinning ranks of Toryism. When the time comes for Mr. Gladstone to elect which branch of his following he will adhere to, there can be no doubt what his choice will be. It is to be hoped that, whatever may be the fate of his Irish University Bill, his foreign and colonial policy will be more consonant to the national mind, and more in keeping with his otherwise dignified demeanor