

— Next to the Pacific Railway Agreement, the most important matter of the session has been the trial of Mr. Blake as a leader. It is not necessary to draw comparisons between him and his predecessor. Without reference to the question of ability the change was inevitable. Under Mr. Mackenzie, the party had suffered a total and ruinous overthrow, and his continuance in command would have damped the powder as effectually as the continuance of Mack after Ulm or of Villeneuve after Trafalgar. The sympathy which the Tories hastened to express with him on his shameful deposition by party ingratitude did credit to their hearts: but among the things which wisdom allows you to be taught by your enemy is not the choice of your general. This, however, was not all. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Blake represented different wings of the party and different principles. Mr. Mackenzie represented Gritism, or, to put it more plainly, the *Globe* and its proprietor. He was the instrument of a policy the aim of which was to keep the party under a dictatorship, to stifle the spirit of progressive Liberalism which from the would-be dictator had become entirely estranged, and for definite principle to substitute as a standing ground and title to power pretensions to superior purity, which unfortunately could not be sustained. To anything National, Mr. Brown and his organ were fiercely opposed, notwithstanding his own appeal to national ambition at the time of Confederation. Especially was he opposed to Commercial Autonomy, which the *Globe* used to denounce as severance from the Empire. It is impossible not to think that the connections of the commercial man exercised in this respect some influence over his public policy. Mr. Mackenzie was taken to England, led to the altar of British capital, and there bound by a vow to be forever true to the principle of Commercial Dependency. Upon the issue between Commercial Autonomy and Commercial Dependency the battle of September, 1879, was really fought; and whether Autonomy played with the black or with the white chess-men mattered little to those whose sole object it was that the right should be affirmed. The *Globe* section was