

The object of civilized governments is security against wrong. The law protects citizen from citizen; but what but an Assembly representing a large portion of the community, would guard against wrong from the Government.

The proposition of Mr. McKay is too "uniform," and must necessarily exclude true popular elections. It places the country voter, who may not be able to either read or write, but who possesses 20 acres of land, in a position from which it excludes the barristers, physicians, schoolmasters, shipowners and merchants; the respectable mechanic, that strength of society, the middle class, and those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. By the right of suffrage alone can the voice—more particular of the latter class—be heard in the Legislature. This bill is offensive, because it is degrading to the feelings. Is not the writer of this letter as well qualified for the elective franchise as the feeder of swine, or the driver of oxen? Let us have a "diversified" suffrage, a balance of power; let the various classes of which society is composed, be fully represented, and let the people have their share in the legislation of their country.

Pluck the mask from the political clique that proposes a 100 pounds qualification for the right of voting in Victoria, and you have the barefaced, exclusive monopoly which has so long held the reins of power, and fettered the will of the people.

Let us have a 10 pound household suffrage, extending it to offices. Let Victoria be divided into four wards, and give us four members; this is a fair division. Let Esquimalt have the same franchise. Give it also to the rising towns when they reach a given number of qualified voters. Repeal the law which requires a property qualification from your members; fix a limit to the duration of your Assembly, and carry to the question of the franchise, the opinion of a statesman of modern times, "That the end of representation is not a medium between wealth and numbers, but a combination of the influences of both." It is the result of the separate action of property, deliberate opinion, and of popular spirit, on the different parts of the political system.