

# BRIBES TO MINISTERS OF THE CROWN.

## *Contractors buy influence with Gifts, Purses and Family Settlements.*

Those who seek for improper favors in their dealings with the Ottawa Government have various ways of securing them. Some establish or get control of a newspaper, and command and use much undue influence. Others contribute a share of their profits to Election corruption Funds. The bolder operators deal directly with the Heads of Departments, and pay money to Ministers themselves, or to trustees for their families. Sir John Macdonald, as First Minister of Canada, inaugurated this gross system of bribery, by submitting to be the recipient from Contractors, office seekers and sycophants, of the large sum of Eighty Thousand dollars in the shape of a settlement upon himself and family. He and his friends had previously accepted \$360,000 from Sir Hugh Allan for a government contract, but their excuse then made was that it was not for personal uses, but only to corrupt the electors with. The \$80,000 did not go to buy votes, but to purchase the Premier. The subscriptions to this fund were by no means thrown away. Sir David Macpherson acted as Treasurer and Collector. He was made Speaker of the Senate, Cabinet Minister and K.C.M.G. The Northern Railway gave \$2,500, both illegally and corruptly. They owed a large sum to the Government, and next Session Sir John agreed to settle this debt at an enormous reduction. He actually had a Bill brought in for the purpose, but too late in the Session to pass, in the face of vigorous opposition from Mr. Mackenzie, who, when he came to power, secured half-a-million more for the country than Sir John had agreed to accept. But a gift blindeth the eye.

The example of accepting a money bribe or Testimonial, which was set by the Premier, was naturally followed by his colleagues. Sir Hector Langevin, as Minister of Public Works, was not above accepting a purse of Twenty Thousand dollars subscribed largely by Contractors with unsettled claims against his Department. Of course the claims have since been all agreeably settled.

Next, we have Mr. Costigan receiving a present of a house and its furniture from government contractors and civil servants. No doubt any who refused to subscribe were reported to the Minister, and, if they have been made to suffer, can we be surprised?

Will Canadians submit to be ruled by men who prostitute their power and patronage to feather their own nests? England would not tolerate it for a day in a public man, and even New York Aldermen are sent to the State's Prison for less offences.