

liberation." "To be free," said that great statesman Daniel Webster, "the people must be intelligently free. To be the safe depositors of political power, they must be able to comprehend and understand the general interests of the community." And now to look upon our own position, to canvass our rights and privileges, and to see if authority has not been usurped by individuals which belongs to the great body of society. What is our position, and who are the qualified Electors?

The present restricted Franchise deprives a large number of our fellow-countrymen of their just Electoral rights; entails on the Colony bad Legislation and an irresponsible policy; and demands a radical reform in the Representation and the Representatives of the people. To this proposition a large majority of the people say—Aye! The qualification for the high privilege of exercising the right of voting for a member of the Legislature is confined within the narrow circle of holders of twenty acres of land. Thus, the householder, the merchant, the ship owner, that large and intelligent portion of society who occupy offices for their business, and live in lodgings—Englishmen by birth, Englishmen in heart and in habits, are cut off from having a voice in determining who shall legislate for their interests. It is obvious that a constituency chained down to such a limit must be influenced directly, and indirectly, by the great monopolizing company, who are large proprietors of land, and who make their interests paramount, and all other bend to their profit and advantage.

It is not necessary for us now to enquire whether the Electors are half-breeds or white men—whether they were old worn out servants and pensioners of the Hudson's Bay Company—or whether they ever PAID the Government for the land upon which they claim to vote. These questions will be asked, and will have to be answered on some future day—our heads are not all wool gathering. But if the Colony is to be settled according to the spirit of the British Constitution—if the Government is to be modelled after the manner which experience has taught to be the best, both in Canada and Australia—if a system is adopted that would be in accordance with the sentiments of the thinking portion of the community, then, wisdom, order, and free institutions must prevail.

The present system is a monopoly—an iniquity. The great Supreme has given to man intellect and intelligence, and he who obstructs, by antediluvian ideas, the exercise of those powers can be no friend to the human family. In a well organized settlement the interests of all must be truly and honestly represented; and there must be a recognition of individual responsibility on the part of the people.

The improvement desired is not that one class shall grasp the power from another, or become dominant, (as at present in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council,) but that the combined action of all shall compel "each class to do its duty." If the Electors have power to compel the rulers to abstain from jobbery—if they keep the path open for ability in all classes—and if they adopt a plan of government free from Hudson's Bay Company, and family influences, then they may hope to promote such measures of reform as are in accordance