

the politicians may as yet think it expedient to shut their eyes.

That people talk about these matters more and with greater freedom in private than in public is very true. The *Journal of Commerce* is astonished at our thinking that opinion in Canada has not been free; we are astonished at our able contemporary's astonishment. Tyranny may be exercised over reputation as well as over person or property: it has been exercised over reputation by powerful journals in this country to an extreme degree, as well as with the utmost unscrupulousness, and only with difficulty put down. Men to whom no interested motive could be imputed, who were advocating in a perfectly legitimate way what they believed to be good for the people, have been treated by those who had got the control of opinion as malefactors and traitors, held up not only to political but to social odium, and hunted down almost like noxious beasts. The tyranny was not only fatal to the openness of national councils, on questions that concerned the nation most deeply but injurious to national character. Perhaps at Montreal, where the *Journal of Commerce* is published, there has been more of liberality and tolerance than under the Calvinistic dictatorship in Ontario. Another thing that has interfered, and still interferes, if not with freedom of opinion, with the free profession of opinion by the people in the elections—is the rigidity of party organization. The *Journal of Commerce* challenges the adherents of Commercial Union to appeal to the people under the Ballot. But how are they to get nominations? The nominations are completely controlled by the managers of the two organized parties, and an independent candidate attempting to appeal to the people in favour of a new principle, would, as the *Journal of Commerce* must know, expose his principle to defeat by agencies irrespective not only of its truth, but of the sentiment of the people. In the United States, an immense majority of the citizens may be safely said to be in favour of Administrative Reform, which the two “Machines” are practically in collusion with each other to prevent; but no