



But how does the practical purist propose to get rid of the difficulty? It is useless to tell the corrupt voter that the other side has no money—even if your statement is true. In his greed he is as cute as you. He will tell you promptly that the “other side” have been “shaking ten dollar bills” all over the place. And a hotly contested election affords no place for deliberation, no field for philosophical experiment. Thirty polling subdivisions at least are under his eye and all these must go right or the game is up. With these hangers on to fortune upon the electoral lists what does the purist propose to do? He may counsel an honest candidate to abandon the field, or stick to his plan of purity. Very good, and let in the other fellow who is quite unscrupulous? What moral principle could be served thus? The problem viewed from the practical everyday side is a serious one, and until some radical change be made in the electoral systems an irresistible temptation to corruption will continue.

Respecting the fund, it may be said that this can only be raised on the government side. This is a natural observation but not true. The opposition have means of raising their fund as well as the government. A change of government opens up vistas of favours and patronage as alluring as those now in the hands of the government. But it will be conceded that the government's position is usually the strongest in this regard, and hence we find the cry of purity almost invariably raised by the opposition and it lasts with vociferous energy until power is obtained, and then the mighty voice deserts the victors and passes with easy steps to the vanquished.

#### THE ONLY REMEDY.

Some have proposed “compulsory voting” as a remedy. It may be tried, but if a law compelled the “boys from Peat Mountain” to come to the polls, the section bosses would still find it necessary to surround them with soothing influences. A disfranchisement of those proved guilty of corruption is totally ineffective because under our system of “superb secrecy” not one case in a hundred ever is, or ever can be, brought to light. I confess I see no immediate remedy except one, which, if it could be carried into effect, would fairly well meet the case. If the candidates and leaders of both parties in every constituency would enter into a solemn engagement with one another that no money be spent and the “suckers,” “hoodlers” and “louts” be left severely to their own devices, then, indeed, healthy and normal conditions would be restored. Everyone who is familiar with the distrust between the two parties, and the unconquerable temptation which would remain to secretly circumvent the enemy, will have strong misgivings as to the practicability of such a method. But it has been achieved and is the best reform in sight.

I conclude as I began, by simply declaring that the politicians are not wholly blameable for the system now complained of: that it is a nuisance to them which they would gladly escape. The evil is in the low instincts and sordid impulses of a portion of the electorate, and all the religious and moral influences at work seem powerless to reach these. It must not be supposed for a moment that the bribing at elections is done only by the

lower or vicious classes. My experience enables me to say it is largely in the hands of church wardens, elders, class leaders and deacons—few of these excellent “pillars of the Church” deem such work inconsistent with their religious principles. They would not use profane language, nor get drunk, nor even neglect their prayer-meetings, but they will, without scruple, gather in the “boys from Peat Mountain.”

Let our discussion of this burning question be fair and rational. To stamp it out is necessary from every point of view; but we shall not get at the root of the evil by simply abusing the politicians, or by mutual re-primations by the party forces. It is an ethical question and its roots are to be found in a degenerate electorate. It is there we must seek a remedy.

#### The Maker of Mauve

SIR WILLIAM HENRY PERKIN, the English scientist who has recently been dined and wined in New York, has been described by a variety of phrases, but he was first known as the maker of mauve. The great work of Sir William Perkin is the discovery that wonderful dyeing material is to be extracted from coal tar. It is largely owing to his investigations that throughout the world 120,000 men are employed in manufacturing valuable products from what was once discarded as waste.

Half a century ago, when William Perkin was eighteen years old, he was acting as assistant to Dr. A. W. Hofmann, head of the Royal College of Chemistry in London. During the absence of his chief, young Perkin made experiments with coal-tar aniline, in the hope of obtaining a substitute for quinine. He failed in his original purpose but finally got a black precipitate which, to his surprise, proved to have dyeing qualities, producing a violet-like colour, which was called mauve.

Last spring London went mauve-mad, perhaps in celebration of his semi-centenary, perhaps because Queen Alexandra's well-known fondness for this delicate hue led to a general fashion. Sir William Henry Perkin, who has created one of the most striking revolutions in modern industry, will probably be associated for a generation to come with the colour that has been called “the verge of violet.”

#### A Fluent Monarch

KING EDWARD can speak German and French as fluently as English, and has a fair knowledge of one or two other languages, but as a linguist he is eclipsed by the Emperor of Austria. It is told of the latter that at one of the great military reviews he addressed four different regiments—German, Hungarian, Bohemian, and Wallachian—each in its own tongue, and Hungarians will never forget how, fifteen years ago, the youthful Archduke Francis Joseph, when installing a certain governor, electrified his audience by addressing it in purest Magyar, a tongue no other archduke had ever taken the trouble to learn. They sprang from their seats, waved their swords in a frenzy of enthusiasm, and almost lifted the roof with tremendous shouts.

#### He Has The Earth

Some months ago excavations were being made for new tracks on the line of a certain famous railway. At one point a near-by resident obtained permission to remove a quantity of turf to resod his premises, the section boss being instructed to notify the excavating “gang” when the resident should have secured all he desired.

The “Hibernian's” report is as follows: “The man that wanted the earth has got it.”—Harper's Magazine.

