

though the remedy provided by a change of tribunal may be more speedy than it is now. The House solemnly declared by a majority of sixteen, that the returning officer has the right to decide on the qualification of the candidates before him; what is there, then, to hinder the minority man being always returned? True, he could soon be unseated; but, meanwhile, the man who is really the choice of the people is mulcted in costs in order to obtain the seat to which no one denies his *prima facie* right. Probably the far-reaching consequences of their vote on the question did not trouble much a goodly number of the *moutons* who are sure to find their way into every deliberative assembly.

The session which has had such a stormy beginning, promises to have an equally stormy middle and end. Since the signing of the Pacific Railway charter, the correspondence between the rival companies chartered by the last parliament has been made public. Very little new light has been shed by this incident on the facts of the case, though charges of a grave nature abound. These may be reduced to two—that there is an intention on the part of the government and the chief spirits of the new company to hand the road over to American capitalists, and that the ministry have received their *quid pro quo* in the shape of a large sum of money to help to carry the late elections. It seems to have been acknowledged on all hands, at one time, that the road could not be built without the aid of American capital; and the charge made by the one company against the other of being willing to place the line under the control of an alien proprietary, seems, so far as the public can yet judge, to be fairly met by the *tu quoque* retort. An attempt is at present being made to secure sufficient English capital to carry on the enterprise. Should that attempt be unsuccessful, perhaps, indeed, whether or no, it will be impossible to prevent the stock from passing into the hands of foreigners, and with the stock must pass also the control of the road. The political power exercised by the company will enable it to make and mar cabinets at its pleasure; and with the Americanizing of the company and its directorate is inseparably connected the loss of the autonomy of the Dominion. The other charge, that of accepting a bribe, is as yet unsubstantiated in every particular, depending for currency on mere assertion. The public will be loth to believe that any body of men could be found in this country, who would be willing to transfer to the hands of aliens the control of a national work of such gigantic magnitude. They will find it still harder to believe that they would venture to negotiate with those who are interested in a rival road, and must be considered the enemies of the Canadian scheme. But if it should ever transpire that ministers have been found venal enough to sell their country's dearest interests for foreign gold, with which to debauch constituencies during a general election,