

have been made, and are now being made, against the Mackenzie Ministry. Some of them, it must be admitted, rest upon only very flimsy foundations, and doubtless have owed their origin to the too excessive zeal and jaundiced vision of partisanship, which can see nothing but evil in the acts, or wishes, or even the thoughts, of a political opponent. Others there are which, the unprejudiced observer must readily admit, are only too well founded. But when the latter are brought home to Ministers, what is the reply—the defence made in their behalf? We are told—seriously and even indignantly told—that a former Ministry perpetrated equally grave misdeeds, or worse! What reply is this to the people of this Dominion? It may serve as a retort to throw in the face of one of those former alleged mal-administrators, if he is now seeking a renewal of public confidence, *because* he was before entrusted with it; but what is it to the Canadian of to-day, called upon to pass judgment upon the Ministry of to-day, what some other Ministry did, four years, or eight, or twenty, years ago? Nothing. It is outside the question altogether; which question simply is: are the Ministers now in office entitled to a renewal of the confidence of the people of Canada, or not?

Equally absurd, and as impudent as it is absurd, is it to maintain that if the country rejects the Mackenzie Ministry, we must revert to precisely the old state of affairs which immediately preceded its advent to power; or that, in the working of constitutional, representative, responsible government, this Dominion is, at best, doomed to alternate eternally between the great principles of *Tweddledum* and *Tweddledoe*. There is no such thing as going back; and we are not confined to a choice of evils; nor are we restricted to an alternative of incapacities. In this young and growing country, and in this *quasi* nationality, such ideas are intolerable. If the existing Cabinet and House of Commons have failed to meet the requirements of the country, they should be discarded absolutely and without any fear of consequences, by the people whom they pretend to represent. There are as good men, and as able men, in Canada now as at any former period of her history,—nay, if we are not intellectually retrograding, there must be better; and they will

be found forthcoming if the country calls for their services.

Of course, we cannot pretend, within the limited scope of this one article, to criticise the whole past acts, and present avowed policy, of the Mackenzie Ministry, indicating faults where we deem them to be chargeable, and giving credit where credit is due. That must be a work of time. We will here only briefly allude to two considerations. The existing Ministry of the Dominion, even supposing that its members had not been wafted to power as avowedly the representatives of the "party of purity"—which they were,—did unquestionably attain power on a question of purity of administration. Has this Ministry been—we do not say *no worse* than that which preceded, for that would be absurd under the circumstances, but—has it been even specially notable for the purity of its administration? If not, it is a fraud and, upon that ground alone, is deserving of the reprobation of the country. Again, as is only too well known and felt, the whole Dominion is now suffering under an unprecedented commercial depression; whilst Ministers decline to countenance, or permit, any legislation having for its object the amelioration of this depression. Is any successful legislation with this object possible? If so, the existing Ministry, in denying it, does not deserve well of the country.

Whatever doubts, if any, the Nova Scotia elector may entertain as to what should be his own action relative to the now existing Dominion Ministry, we find it difficult to imagine him hesitating as to what he owes to the Provincial Administration. To the one which now ostensibly rules in this Province, must be accorded a pre-eminence over all Novascotian Administrations, in that it has surpassed all others in not doing what the exigencies of the time and the Province require. Is it that there is nothing to be done? It can be shown that never before were there so many and such sweeping and radical reforms so pressingly demanded at the hands of the Provincial Administration—never before such an accumulation of work awaiting the wise and careful action of the Provincial Legislature, as at the present time. If he behoves the electors of Nova Scotia to see to it. At the same time, it is no less imperative upon the people

to make sure that they give not their confidence to those who are guilty, of *freely and openly conveying*—we use a mild term—the public monies into their own pockets. Neither should they think for a moment of tolerating in their public service men who seek to attain eminent official position through the, not only grossly immoral, but the bungling, boobyish, intensely low-lived, and utterly contemptible means of *bribery*. Novascotia is not reduced to the sad alternative, in the choice of representatives for the Legislature, of choosing between those who are guilty of such vulgar political crimes, on the one hand, and the somnolent representatives of an effete policy, on the other. The people are not yet restricted to a choice between King Log and King Stork; and we take this early opportunity of vehemently protesting against the assumption that they are tied up to any such woful alternative. There are worthy and sufficiently able men to represent Novascotia in the Provincial House of Assembly, as in the Dominion House of Commons; and they will be forthcoming if the country really wants them.

It is well to know, however, that these worthy and able men, which ever House they may be intended for, will not condescend to be sent up annually to the capital, with labels upon their backs, like so many pieces of personal luggage belonging either to "the Premier," or to the so-called "leader of the Opposition"; nor submit to be hauled back and forth to either side of the Speaker's chair, like so many dead carcases having no souls of their own at all. No man of proper self-respect—no gentleman, will submit to any such chronic indignity, although factionism should insist upon it ever so loudly. No; the able and worthy men such as should be the country's representatives in Parliament, and such as will be forthcoming if demanded, whatever their known opinions upon any given subject, will yet be the mere creatures of no man, or body of men. They will be as free as honorable in their actions; and they will persist in really possessing souls of their own.

Pay as you go. Ask, but never beg. Help others when you are able, but never give when you cannot afford to.