

The fraud designed, the purpose dark ;
 And smite away
 The hands we lay
 Profanely on the sacred ark."

The election trials in Canada and elsewhere have shown a shameful abuse of this freeman's privilege. Those who are guilty of the crime against the state of selling their votes should be disenfranchised till they know how to discharge its sacred trust. Too often the influences employed to gain the popular vote appeal not to the calm judgment and highest reason, but to prejudice, bigotry and party feeling. There should be no need of brass bands, torchlight processions, stormy meetings, often accompanied by scenes of violence, to bring out the vote of the electors. Men should discharge this duty as promptly as they meet a note at the bank, and as seriously as they go to church.

Nevertheless, with every abatement the world has found no better mode of expressing the popular will, no better system of constitutional government. The ballot, not the bullet, is the true arbiter of the destinies of mankind. Better the storm and stress of the contested election, better the perfervid eloquence of the press and the hustings, than the helpless stagnation, than the unvoiced serfdom under a despotic government. In the most excitable and revolutionary communities like France, elections are a

safety-valve, and often dissipate the energies which under repression would lead to destructive explosion. The revolutions of 1789, of 1830, of 1848 in France might have been avoided had she enjoyed freedom of the ballot.

The expansion of the ballot by the successive Reform Bills of Great Britain has doubtless saved the nation from more than one political cataclysm. The Russian Government has been described as a despotism tempered by assassination. The intrigues and murders of the Seraglio have often been the only means of securing reform in Turkey. The frightful revolutions and wholesale slaughters in the despotic East seem the only way to get rid of obnoxious tyrannies.

It is no function of this journal to take part in the politics of the day. But it is unquestionably our duty and privilege to recognize amid the stirring events of the times the Hand of the Supreme Arbiter of the universe, to see that God by His providence is reconciling the world unto Himself. In great national and moral crises it is no less our duty to cast our ballot for righteousness and truth. In the presence of the great prohibition question in Canada—a question that dwarfs almost every other—we should demand of the candidates who seek our suffrages a pledge to suppress and destroy that greatest sin against God, and crime against man—the liquor traffic.

TO ENGLAND.

BY GEORGE LANSING TAYLOR, L.H.D.

(On the prospective unification of Australia and South Africa.)

Hail, mighty Mother of a strenuous race !
 Thy giant children belt the globe with power,
 And bear thy light and freedom as their dower,
 Like eaglets soaring from their nesting place.
 Thy empire marches with unbroken pace,
 And whether suns shine fair, or tempests lower,
 Thy sway still spreads, thy strength and greatness tower,
 And grace and glory lighten from thy fave.
 For human rights and heavenly righteousness
 Beneath thy banners thrive in peaceful trust,
 And downtrod races, raised from shame and dust,
 Copt, Bantu, Boer, Hindu, thy rule shall bless ;
 And free Columbia joins her hand with thine
 To lead, with thee, earth's upward march divine.

Christian Advocate.