

Yet in Britain, in America, and in our own Canada, there are illustrious examples of political purity, of honour unstained and patriotism incorruptible, that redeem public life from the reproach of inevitable baseness. From the days of Joseph, Moses, David and Daniel, down to our own, there have not been wanting those who could stand unabashed in

“That fierce light which beats upon a throne,
And blackens every blot.”

We cannot surrender the belief that it is possible to blend the Statesman and the Christian. We cannot consent to the principle that no Godly man is to be found among “the powers ordained of God;” is ever to be the “minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil”—or “God’s minister, attending continually upon” the receiving of “tribute.” We cannot counsel Christian men to withdraw in disgust from electoral contests, to refuse to be candidates for Parliament, or to decline all official positions in the Governments of these fair Provinces.

Yet we do say, that “it is never right to do wrong;” that when men say, “Let us do evil that good may come,” their “damnation is just;” that it is better to let a good cause suffer, than to promote it by foul means; that nothing can justify the giving or receiving of bribes—selling our birthright for a mess of pottage; that lying in politics is just what lying is anywhere else; and that if we fight the devil with his own weapons, we are sure to be defeated and covered with disgrace. If we cannot go into politics and “keep a conscience void of offence towards God and towards men,” that conscience is not the thing to be given up.

We are not taking up any hasty report, or any party accusation, but simply record what every one is saying, and what we cannot persuade ourselves is untrue, when we state that the recent elections have been characterised by more of profuse and open bribery, than any that took place under the old *regime*. Each party charges it against the other. No one attempts to deny the unprecedented corruption. If the newspapers speak the truth, the managers of elections have debauched the public conscience: if they do not, those daily educators of the people are guilty of immeasurable “evil-speaking, lying and slandering.” Which ever party has done it, or whether both parties have done it, it is a national disgrace, enough to make every true-hearted Canadian hang his head for shame. It is a bad beginning of our new career. God forbid that we should go on in such evil ways!

This is our say upon politics. We have no call to take up here the questions of Union or Anti-Union, Coalition or Party Government, Free Trade or Protection, Colonisation, Railways or Canals—but we have a right, and it is our duty, to speak of the Right and the Wrong of political life. Nor should we show ourselves “men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do,” if we “altogether held our peace at such a time as this.”