

THE bye-elections of the present winter in this Province have been followed by an unsatisfied demand for a recount in the case of the East Prince contest, and a crop of election petitions. Mr. William Campbell has come out of the *melee* unscathed; but Mr. Amadie Gallant has cause for complaint that the way of the political transgressor is hard. It is said that the cases of Messrs. Bell and Lefurgey have been "settled."

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THESE election trials and the manner in which many of them are managed and disposed of, are indicative of something rotten and wrong. The truth is, I fear, that there are in many constituencies, between the honest men of both parties and apart from those who independently change sides according to their changing opinions and convictions, certain electors who are purchasable for a smaller or larger price;—and these decide the event of every election. To obtain the purchasable vote is, therefore, a matter of the first importance to every candidate. It follows that every candidate must be able to place at the disposal of his promoters a liberal supply of money, and that a man, however talented, or however well-fitted to represent the people in Parliament, has no chance of success in an election, and is practically shut out of the candidature unless he can, directly or indirectly, supply a large proportion of the money that is essential. It follows, also, that the majorities cast in elections are almost invariably small; for the result is not a frank expression of public opinion, but only the residuum of the purchasable vote. The consequence is dissatisfaction and bitterness on the part of the opposing partisans and the resort of the defeated candidate to the courts. Petitions are followed by counter-petitions; and finally there is a "saw-off," in