

Absolute in "The Rivals" complained that Lydia Languish looked at him,— "When her love-eye was fixed on me, t'other, her eye of duty, was finely obliqued."

To another class, publicity in regard to their connection with political corruption would be in itself a severe punishment. They do not object to being dishonest, but they would object to being exposed.

Another class devoutly believe in the doctrine which Macaulay tells us at one time prevailed in England even among upright and honorable politicians that it was shameful to receive bribes, but that it was necessary to distribute them.

Both political parties being admittedly guilty, no useful purpose can be served by discussing the degrees of frailty attaching to each of them. The first proposition which this article insists upon is that corrupt practices will never be suppressed or even materially checked in Canada under the present law. The law to be effective should be simple and summary in its provisions and swift and severe in its enforcement, whereas the present law in its indirectness and circumlocution suggests the method of the tailor at Laputa who undertook to measure Gulliver by sextant or quadrant and co-sines, with the result that the suit was a misfit because of an error in the calculation. The erroneous calculation which makes our election law misfit, is in entrusting its practical enforcement under election petitions to parties who often have selfish or corrupt motives for preventing the beginning of any proceedings and for checking an investigation when once begun.

It is true that there are provisions in our statute permitting prosecutions for corrupt practices, even outside of an election petition, but these provisions are never invoked unless the corrupt practice is of a most flagrant and easily established character. The very common offence of bribery is rarely made the subject of special prosecutions for the reasons already stated that retaliatory actions would follow immediately.

But even if the law is amended at this session of the new parliament by simplifying some of its provisions and making other portions more stringent, there still remains the difficulty,— How can any guarantee be given that after such a law is enacted