

## PURITY IN POLITICS.

It is the custom of many preachers to deliver a discourse just before an election, and tell the people what a sinful thing it is to sell their votes, or to buy the vote of someone else. Yet the expenditure of money for the purpose of securing votes goes on. It is considered quite legitimate to use all sorts of arguments, to influence the opinion of the voter, but the direct purchase of votes is forbidden by the law. Still it goes on. It has always been a matter of doubt how much of the cash that is handed out to the "heelers" on election day finds its way into the pockets of the men for whom it is intended, and how much sticks to the fingers of the "heeler" on its way. No one has yet been able to fix the percentage, and nobody ever will. But everybody who is interested in procuring funds to contest elections is anxious that the use of money for other than legitimate purposes should be stopped. It has always been a matter of doubt as to how much is accomplished by the use of money on election day and the general consensus of opinion is that unless the contest is a very close one, the result would be the same without money as with it. Where a dozen or so of votes turn the scale, money may elect or defeat a candidate. But we have few such elections in these parts.

A few determined men can stop the expenditure of money in any constituency, but the doing of this is not pleasant, and therefore what is everybody's business, is nobody's, and reputable citizens risk their liberty, buying votes for it is punishable by imprison-