

point by Mr. Manners in the columns of the Cobourg Star; to mark his appreciation of which His Excellency the Governor General struck the name of the proprietor of the paper from the list of magistrates.

Substituting the word "libel" for "treason" a good many of our friends might adopt the language of Horne Tooke—who on being asked by a friend how much treason a man could write without being in danger of criminal prosecution. "I really cannot tell," replied the witty political parson, "but I am trying to find out." Perhaps the greater number of us are reduced to the same necessity as Tooke, who when examined before a committee of the House of Lords thus explained his position:—

*Chairman*—Pray Mr. Tooke what may your income be?

*Tooke*—One hundred and fifty pounds, my Lord.

*C.*—And your expenditure must far exceed it?

*T.*—Yes, my Lord, that generally reaches £3000.

*C.*—May I ask you how you provide the difference?

*T.*—Why, my Lord, I mortgage my brains for it.

*C.*—Dear me! Well I never should have thought of that?

*T.*—Possibly not, my Lord!

Is it not true that the *very strong* language used in many of our journals arises from the fact that satire in its mild and gentlemanly form is not sufficiently understood among us? and so in place of taking a delicate fine edged scalpel to eradicate some festering spot, we are forced to have recourse to the rusty saw or jagged billhook; besides, does there not exist throughout Canada a prurient taste for personal vituperation?

Look to the debates in parliament, statesmanship is frequently lost sight of and objurgation and invective are called in to supply its place; the reporters of course, acting as mediums, communicate to their respective journals the *strong* points as they tell for or against the side on which they are employed. Place before you any two of the leading journals on opposite sides and endeavour to reconcile their accounts of one night's debate and you will, at once, understand why our Canadian politics are such a mystery at home, and really, misapprehension thus induced has, on more than one occasion, been on the verge of producing very serious consequences—the militia business for instance.

But there is a far more serious charge and one which very nearly touches the task the writer is about to undertake—it is the habit of mixing up personal matter with what should be purely political argumentation, it is a constant reacting of the battle between Messius and Sarmentus till the spectators become disgusted with the scene and as they turn from the arena ask, 'Are those really the gentlemen entrusted with legislating, for such a country as Canada?'

Many of our readers well recollect the occasion when an Honourable Member told the House that they, *i. e.*, his fellow members, put him in