

enough money to pay an instalment than he purchases a lot. In a majority of cases the purchasers fall behind-hand with the second or third instalment, when their independence is for the present destroyed. The agents of the Land Company are members of the colonial oligarchy, so that we may be sure they are not slow to profit, for political purposes, by the fears of these dependent debtors. Any actual exertion of their ultimate power is seldom, perhaps never, necessary.

Another fruitful source of corruption is the power of the Governor so to regulate the disposal of waste lands as to create votes, by creating small freeholds. This power Sir Francis Head is stated to have employed to an enormous extent, and the statement is supported by an abundance of evidence.

When a settler acquires land of the Crown in Canada he receives what is called a location-ticket. This empowers him to go upon the lot of land; but before he can obtain a good title, it is incumbent upon him to perform what are called the settlement-duties, which consist of clearing a certain small portion, and erecting a log-house. The Assembly decided that the possession of a location-ticket did not confer a vote, and so it was held till lately. Votes however have, at the present election, been recorded on this qualification, and as the Assembly is the tribunal of decision, it is not likely a Tory Assembly will decide the point against the Executive. It is stated, and the statement is supported by much evidence, that at least 5000 votes have been created on small, chiefly quarter-acre, lots. Now it is more than probable that 1200 or 1500 would have been quite sufficient, aided by other expedients, to turn the elections in Sir Francis Head's favour.

The former House, as we have stated, had forty Reformers; the present contains only twenty. Each county returns two members, so that it would only be necessary to overwhelm ten counties with these new-made voters, and the object would be attained. The average number of voters in each county does not certainly reach 1000, and perhaps not 800; hence 150, or even 100 obedient Tory votes, added to the constituency of each of ten counties (making 1500, or even 1000 on the whole), would be adequate to the effect. Now it is currently stated in Upper Canada, that 5000—a number probably exaggerated—of such votes were made: and yet this is called a re-action!

Several minor, but almost equally unjustifiable expedients were resorted to. The polling-places were arbitrarily fixed in parts of the counties likely to be most convenient to the Tory candidates. The day of election, for places where a Tory return was tolerably certain, was fixed several days in advance of the other elections, in order that such returns might depress the Liberals, and encou-