

more than can be gained by it. Pleads another, while the money is going, we might as well have our share with the rest; if we do not take it, others will. The same man would be ashamed to make this defence in any other cause. Every man is responsible for his own honesty and integrity before God and men. But it is our own money, still another perseveres; these men who would buy us did not get it honestly. It came out of our pockets; and we are simply putting it back where it belongs. You do not know where it came from. This is all surmise and subterfuge. Two wrongs do not make a right. If a thief has robbed your friend, you do not right the matter by sharing his gains.

We have referred to two classes of compensated voters: the first having settled convictions one way and for the sake of a bribe voting the other way; the second, either through incapacity or indifference, having no settled convictions at all. There is a third class—nay, a fourth, this latter comprising those who take bribes from both parties or take a bribe from one candidate and vote for the other, the men of this stamp are beneath contempt, worse than criminals, lower than thieves; for there is honor even among thieves. We are glad to believe that this class is as small as it is contemptible.

The third class consists of those who have voted according to their convictions and received compensation. The members of this class say, we have not been bribed; we have voted according to conscience; we would scorn to do anything else; all the money in the province would not induce us to vote on the other side. Why should we not receive a gift from a friend? Very plausible, no doubt, but is it a gift, pure and simple? Are you, able bodied, in health, capable of earning a living, of supporting your families, the proper objects of charity? Would not many of you resent it, if it came under the name of charity? Is there not a proper time and place for charity? Is election time the very best time and the only time? Is the polling place the proper place? Why should men be charitable then and there and dam up the tide of generosity at all other times and places? Are politicians richer in the milk of human kindness than other men? Do they throw money around recklessly, where it is not needed, where they obtain no *quid pro quo*. If some mysterious influence had flooded the candidate's soul with generous impulses at or about election time, his money would be devoted to relieve the necessities of those voting against him as well as those voting for him, and charity would be justified of her children. Depend upon it, my credulous friend, the candidate who offers you compensation for your vote regards you with suspicion, doubts your loyalty to his cause, does not suppose that he is purchasing nothing for something. The very offer of compensation is an insult to your incorruptibility, an insult that never would be repeated if you were a man. O shame upon him who degrades this noble franchise into a matter of bargain and compensation! He is demor-

alising his own soul, the souls of his children, the soul of his country. It is one of the noblest prerogatives we possess, one of the most important parts of our duty to God and men. When you succour your neighbour, when you relieve the distressed, when you weep with the mourner, when you defend the character of your friend, when you pray for those in need, do you not feel that these are things that are profaned by the touch of money, things whose value can never be measured by rows and columns of figures? So is it, when we have learned to see things rightly, with this noble franchise. My vote for justice, righteousness, purity, the exaltation of my country in all things good and true,—the patriotic impulses that have flowed through the veins of my ancestors into mine, that have made my love for her every natural feature as well as my anxiety for her prosperity and glory an absorbing passion—ah, my dear brother Canadians, these things are not marketable, these things are not for sale; no merchant is rich enough to carry such a costly line of goods; they are as far removed from the market and its traffic as the east is from the west.

No, let the manhood of this fair Dominion rise and shake itself free from this reproach, rise in the glory of its honesty and strength, and visit with severest penalties those who buy and sell the conscience of our people. Let new and more stringent laws be enacted! Let every candidate be required to give strict account under oath of every dollar employed in election expenses! Let the buying or selling of votes be placed on a par with seduction, with thievery, with arson! It is more than a misdemeanour; it is a crime.

THE *Independent* of March 13th contained an editorial on "The Result of the Canadian Elections", which we were pained and indignant to see in a journal generally so just and unprejudiced. It is a lamentable exhibition either of ignorance or spite to declare that "the Government of Sir John Macdonald is based politically on antagonism to the United States and commercially on economic isolation". When such journals as the one mentioned are driven by disappointment and chagrin to make such absurd and unwarrantable statements, it certainly looks as though an understanding had existed that something more than a Liberal triumph would be involved in the defeat of Sir John and his party. That Sir John "indulged in the most violent language of hostility to" the United States, is either an inexcusable exaggeration or a deliberate falsehood, unless protestations of fidelity to the dear old flag, which will float over us when the Republic is celebrating the end of its tenth centennium, are of necessity hostile to the United States. The statement that "Nova Scotia and the other Maritime Provinces are always at auction" because of their remoteness, imperfect incorporation in the Dominion and impoverishment, reveals an ignorance of the true state of things in these Provinces that is simply colossal, and utterly inexcusable in any journal, especially a religious one. Evidently the disappointment over the result of the elections is very bitter among