

bly suits Sir John well, and it would be at once disturbed if life were put, by the only conceivable means, into the Ontario Opposition. The men who occupy the place of leaders of the party did not even show themselves in the Riding. Independence of Ottawa seems to be the first condition of an effective Opposition in Ontario. Another condition, however, is the appearance of some stronger men than Mr. Meredith has at his side.

—In Sir Richard Cartwright's fierce indictment of the Government there was much that is only too familiar. No one can doubt that we are governed to a deplorable extent, by corruption, or that the consequence is the demoralization of a community well fitted by nature, if ever a community was, for the working of representative institutions. Indeed Sir Richard's instances were not taken from the worst class of all. When, on the eve of a general election, a Prime Minister assembles the representatives of a particular commercial interest in the parlour of a hotel, takes from them subscriptions for his election fund, and virtually pledges to them in return the commercial policy of the country, corruption assumes its most dangerous and noxious form. The most novel and startling count in Sir Richard Cartwright's indictment was that relating to the corruption of the Press. It would be difficult to substantiate the charge by proving the motives with which advertisements and printing patronage are given: but when a government such as ours spends two or three hundred thousand dollars a year on the journals we may be sure that a sinister influence is exercised, and that poison, to use Sir Richard's apt metaphor, is cast into the well of public truth. The excuse, as has been said before, is the difficulty of holding together provinces geographically scattered, differing in race and without unity of commercial interest. This may amount almost to a plea of necessity. But the system is not the less immoral or the less injurious to the political character of the people.