

the reign of Annand, Vail.
Only two defences have been attempted to be made for these scandalous proceedings. The first is that overcharges were made by Messrs. Grant Compton and Crosskill before 1867, and the second is that the Government remedied the evil by (in 1876) changing the system. The first allegation, even if true, could be no defence, inasmuch as none of these gentlemen were members of the Government, as Annand and Vail were. But it is a singular fact that, after having possession of all our public documents for eleven years, they have never been able to substantiate this statement in any one instance.

The second statement is no defence at all. The thief who had stolen your goods, might as well set up as a defence that he had since changed his habits; or some notorious corruptionist like Herman Cook or Major Walker, that he had since voted for a rigid election law. The important fact in the scandal is that nearly two hundred thousand dollars of Provincial money has been traced to the pockets of the proprietors of the "Chronicle," "Citizen" and "Recorder," which they have obtained by fraud, and

and no proceedings have ever been taken by the Government to compel them to do so. The very men who are shouting through their newspapers for actions to be brought against parties who are only supposed to have some few dollars of public money in their hands, do themselves stand convicted by the journals of the House of having nearly two hundred thousand dollars of public money in their pockets, which they obtained by practices more nefarious and dishonest than those of the thief, and which they still continue to retain. Why, we ask, has not Mr. Hill caused "suits in Equity" to be brought against Messrs. Annand, Vail and Blackadar for the recovery of this enormous sum? With a conviction outstanding for over three years against these men, Mr. Hill has not moved a peg, but to-day avails himself of the services of these very men, and the dishonest shoutings of these very newspapers, in order to secure his retention of power. If the electors of Nova Scotia can respect, and put confidence in such a man, or pay any attention to the utterances of such newspapers, we will have to confess to a mistaken estimate of their intelligence, their patriotism, or their honesty.