

posite principles of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy, and there too are large classes of landholders, and men of property, whose interest is alive to preserve the balance necessary for the security of the State; while learning, refinement, and leisure abound to assist the interests of property in creating, fostering, and preserving those sentiments of public virtue, essential for the well-being of society, and in guarding against and checking the abuses and corruptions to which governments are prone.

Hence a public opinion, which through the medium of a free press, is able alike to control the Crown, Nobles, Parliament, Statesmen, and the People, when strong occasion calls it forth. In such a country conflicting elements require to be combined, harmonised, and kept in check, and the means exist to effect that object. But *here* we have not and cannot have the presence of the influence of monarchy or nobility, and all attempts at imitation will but produce spurious and incongruous results. We have and can have but one element of Government—the democratic, and that it is our interest so to regulate and check as to create and preserve a simple, an incorrupt, and an economic system of government.

The great want in a small community such as Nova Scotia, under the system of Government instituted among us, is the free working of a healthy public opinion. The party divisions which will exist under this system, and which indeed may be deemed necessary for its effective operation, leave no middle class to adjust the scale and check the violation of public faith and personal honor in public men; and the circumstances of the country furnish not men of education and leisure adequate to control and direct the public sentiment.

We have but to examine the system in its operation—to trace the influences of the Executive on the Legislature, and of the Legislature on the Executive, and of both on the people to perceive that its tendencies are to imbecility of Executive action, to defective Legislation, and above all to corruption; and that there exists no influence to stay the evils.

It was my intention to have gone into this branch of the subject more largely but I pass over my notes on this topic—because I shall without further enlargement more than sufficiently occupy the time of the house, and tax its patience, and because I might awaken feelings opposed to the calmness essential to the proper consideration of the question before us.

The evils to which I have alluded must reach the administration of justice, and gradually, but inevitably deteriorate the intelligence and professional knowledge and the independence of the Judges, not only because the system makes to a considerable extent political position the path to the Bench, but