

to corrupt the Government, and so gain control of a Railway charter involving millions of the people's money, and millions of acres of their fair domain; and next, by the Government, or by their Railway allies, and with their knowledge and concurrence, to corrupt a sufficient number of the constituencies of the Dominion, to secure to themselves a new lease of power for years to come,—and the people are content to have it so, then may we write “Ichabod” upon the walls of our Canadian Parliament, and upon every page of our constitutional history, for “the glory is departed.”

Heretofore, it has been our pride and boast that if our Legislature was not always wise, or impartial, it was, at least, free from the venality and corruption attributed to some similar bodies in the neighbouring Union; that like the Parliament of Great Britain, of which it is a smaller edition, and perhaps, in some respects, “revised and improved,” it has never been implicated in any Credit-Mobilier scandal, or sold itself to any party, or scheme, for money. Our merchant princes have been among “the honourable of the earth,” and perhaps none more worthily than the chief promoter of our magnificent steam marine, whose name is unhappily mixed up to such an extent with the transactions we have been referring to. Sad, indeed, will it be if investigation into these affairs dissipates all these pleasant dreams, and compels us to believe that it is no longer wholly slanderous to say of Canada, as Walpole said of the statesmen of a past age in England, that “every man has his price!”

The effect of all this, supposing that

the charges are substantiated, and especially if men convicted of such misdemeanors are allowed to go unrebuked, will be disastrous in the extreme. Success will come to be regarded as the true criterion of commercial honour: failure alone will constitute a crime. The “conscience void of offence toward God and toward all men,” will be nothing, and money, and office, will be everything; and our young men, taking example from those who have achieved such brilliant success, will cast off all fear of God, and think only how they may become rich. From such deplorable results it is no less the duty of the Christian to labour, than it is to pray for deliverance.

Whichever view we may take of the matters to which we have been referring, they must be regarded with mingled feelings of shame and sorrow by every honourable mind. We exceedingly regret the occasion for this writing, and for nothing more than for the fearful amount of LYING that, on one side or the other, has grown out of it. We confess to a feeling of utter bewilderment as we read the most positive statements one day met with the most positive denial the next, and all in regard to matters concerning which there would seem to be no possibility of *misunderstanding*. The vituperation, and personalities, of our Canadian press, always bad enough, but greatly aggravated by this last born scandal, are also painful to witness at the present time. We can only hope and pray for a better and kindlier public sentiment, and that God may graciously overrule even the wrath and wickedness of men for His own glory.