borne, but may also be mitigated. Drastic remedies in politics sometimes do more harm than good; therefore let us try palliatives first. If we cannot break asunder the bonds of party, we may at least give the captive more ease and greater freedom—or rather he can obtain them both for himself. To perpetuate the present system of legislation will be to cast reproach upon the country, without whose sanction and approval it cannot survive the approaching contest. Mr. Lowe has said that "as the polypus takes its colour from the rock to which it affixes itself, so do the members of the House take their character from the constituencies." The electors of Ontario will soon have an opportunity of showing of what stuff they are made.

Ontario is not the only member of the Confederacy in which party warfare has reached the lowest ebb. In Nova Scotia, the general elections have terminated in favour of the Government, by an overwhelming majority. The cry of corruption there, as elsewhere, seems to have had no small share in the result. The prevailing policy, indeed the only one apparently, appears to be that which was the boast of the late Sir Allan McNab—Railways. The party inculpated in this case is the Opposition; the charge, corruption in letting contracts for Intercolonial Railway hardware. The want of distinctive party tenets on this occasion is accounted for in a somewhat singular way. The present Provincial Secretary was, until recently, a member of the Opposition, and had, of course, as members of every Opposition are bound to do, resisted every measure proposed from the Treasury Benches. The result is that he will not give his sanction to the old ministerial programme, and his colleagues are not prepared to adopt a new one. The political education of the Nova Scotians must have been neglected. The "Constitutional" practice at this distressing juncture would be either to draw a sponge over the slate, or, better still, to go on where the old *régime* left off, and say nothing more about it. Apologetics in public life are dangerous ground, and the public memory is proverbially feeble.

The result of the Dominion elections, thus far, has been to re-elect the rejected members, with the single exception of Mr. Stuart, of South Norfolk, who has been defeated by Mr. Wallace. In one or two of these cases, the guilty knowledge of bribery by the successful candidate was morally certain. The judges appear to have taken a charitable view, because they did not deem it judicious to pronounce the extreme penalty of disqualification. They were no doubt justified in so doing; but that excuse will not serve on behalf of the electors who have returned the men who should have been rejected with scorn, when they had the effrontery to present themselves again before their dishonoured constituencies. The course taken by the electorate in these instances is disheartening in the extreme. What hope can there be that the most stringent law will effectually stem the tide of corruption, if the people treat the crime of bribery as a venial offence? It would even seem that some of them regard the expenditure of large sums of money in this way as a claim upon their support at a subsequent election. To bribe a constituency is to have a lien upon it, and the larger the sum expended, the more valuable should the security be—the larger the second majority. One of the most reckless of these corrupters has as good as told his constituency so. It is not yet certain whether the penalty of disqualification is or is not incurred, where no personal bribery is proved. That point will be decided by the Judges on the 16th instant. At present, therefore, we shall only urge that if it should appear that the unseated member is eligible for re-election in such a case, some alteration of the law is imperatively required. There is always a tacit understanding, which