

property will be lost. Now, this is a specious objection, and has weight with many. I acknowledge this legitimate influence of property, at the same time that I think knowledge is property, as much as acres or bank stock. But I take the words as commonly used, and acknowledge the influence of rank and riches as legitimate; and as I have shewn that the objectors to the ballot on the grounds of the loss of healthy independence are vain fools, and that the objectors on the morality score are, for the greater part, interested rogues, so I hope to shew that the objectors on the grounds of the loss of the influence of property, speak in ignorance.

I put out of view altogether the taunt thrown at us by foreigners, that, with all our notions of liberty and equality, we are the greatest admirers of hereditary rank and riches of any people in Europe. I put out of view altogether the fact, that demagogues, persons professing universal suffrage and annual parliaments, have never been returned for those places where the suffrage is as extensive as any one could wish,* and yet I say, property *will* furnish the representatives of the nation. When the voter can neither receive personal injury nor personal gain, what will he seek? Will it not be the greatest possible amount of public good, and the advantage which will thus accrue to himself with the public at large? He will therefore vote for the candidate that can best recommend himself by talents, knowledge, and fitness for the business of legislation. And where will he find such persons? At present they are to be found in the indivi-

duals from the middle, and often the lower, class, that are bringing themselves forward to notice by great natural talents, assisted by intense application, and the impulse of honest ambition for distinction. And why are the most fitting and qualified persons found there? Because the rich can make themselves legislators by distributing money instead of knowledge and sense. The trouble is less, the end gained is the same. But change the circumstances, take away the direct value of money in elections, and where will the talents for legislation be found? In those who having riches to buy themselves every available information, and time to devote themselves to the acquisition of it, must surpass those in the middle class who have more circumscribed means, and, from the necessary trammels of business, less time to devote themselves to it. Lawyers, merchants, and soldiers, will not be as now the most efficient legislators. Take away the influence of money at elections, and in a very short time the whine of Earl Wilton, at the education of the common people surpassing that of the nobility, will not be, as at present, a truth. There is no reason why a peer's head should not be as good, and as capable of knowledge, as a weaver's. Let the squire once know that the brains in his breeches pockets will no longer be of service to him, and he will cultivate the contents of his caput. In short, the ballot would at once remove that stigma of lack of knowledge and sense which proverbially characterizes the representative of the county wisdom.

* Hunt's return for Preston may be given as an example against me; but this was a mere accident. Had Mr Stanley thrown open the public houses, he would have polled five for one of Hunt's; but he did not give drink, and the disappointed rabble of Preston resolved to mortify the heir of Derby, by putting a blacking-maker over his head.