

is, more especially as regards the definition of agency, the limitation of subscriptions, and the precise period before and after the election within which a conviction for corrupt practice can be obtained. But, like a wise man, he took what he could get, for compromise seems to be a necessity of political and public life.

In England it is necessary to adopt the odious custom of canvassing, if you wish to win a seat. The free and independent (?) elector south of the Tweed says that, if a vote is worth having, it is worth asking for, and sometimes carries his negotiations one step further by sternly refusing to go to the poll unless he is taken there in a motor car. I can conceive nothing more humiliating than to have to go, hat in hand, from door to door begging political support for oneself or someone else, and being often received with the supercilious condescension not unnatural under the circumstances. Abernethy once thoroughly snubbed a patronising tradesman when he was soliciting the suffrages of the electors of St Bartholomew's Hospital. On presenting himself in a grocer's shop, the proprietor, swelling with temporary importance behind the counter, addressed the candidate in these terms: "I suppose, young man, you have come to solicit my vote and influence?"

"Not a bit of it," was the reply; "I want to buy half a pound of figs, and wrap them up quickly, please, for I'm in a hurry."

In the rural districts of Scotland—in the North, at least—this kind of thing used to be unknown, and one or two candidates in constituencies with which I am familiar, who called at every house, were soundly beaten for their pains; and I heard the story of the reception of a lady who had not hitherto displayed much zeal for the interests of her tenants, but who during a pending election made many visits in rather a hesitating and shamefaced way: "And who may