

This document, which has since been printed both in the colony and in this country *, is in every respect a most able state paper. The reforms demanded by the Assembly, especially the abolition of the present Legislative Council, and the substitution of an elective second chamber, are there insisted upon with great weight of argument, and Lord Glenelg is warned of the serious consequences which may result from refusing them.

The hope was at first entertained, and we may say encouraged, that the Commissioners had carried out powers to concede these reforms. Sir George Grey, it is true, excused himself from laying the instructions before Parliament, on the ground of respect to the Canadians, as such instructions should be first laid before the Assembly. That done, he promised they should be presented to the House.

When the Commissioners reached Canada, their talk was everywhere, and at all times, liberal in the extreme. Lord Gosford spoke of himself and his colleagues as the nominees of a reforming ministry, appointed for no other purpose than to carry out reforms. Of himself, individually, he spoke only as the friend of O'Connell. His previous conduct in Armagh had tended to produce an impression in his favour. His instructions he seldom alluded to without expressly asserting their liberality. 'I am convinced,' said his Lordship, in conversation with a leading member of the Assembly, a few days before the commencement of the session, 'I am convinced that my instructions will satisfy you when they are known. The day after to-morrow will be the great day of revelations; the whole country will then know as much as I know of the intentions of his Majesty. I shall speak all I know without reserve.' In consequence of this fair speaking, previous to the commencement of the session, Lord Gosford gained the good-will, if not the perfect confidence, of the members of the Assembly, and indeed of the mass of the people. He gained, also, the bitter hatred of the colonial Tories, whose journals abused him in terms of the utmost virulence, proving that they too had been deceived by his professions.

At length came the promised 'day of revelations;' but nothing of the kind expected from the Governor's professions was revealed. There was a speech from the throne; without it, the beautiful copy of the British Constitution which prevails in Canada would not have met with due observance. It was, however, wholly unsatisfactory to the Canadians. It was silent on all the topics they deemed most important. If Lord Gosford did 'speak all he

* See Mr. Roebuck's pamphlet, entitled 'Existing Difficulties in the Government of the Canadas' (being a reprint of the article which appeared in this Review, with additions). The document alluded to is to be found in the Appendix of the pamphlet.