

are, then, pledged to the present system—pledged to give to British North America the rights of British subjects; the Sovereign, whose name has been solemnly used—the Parliament, before which every document has been laid, are pledged to it—and so are the People, who know no reason why the British Constitution, in all its strength and all its beauty, may not exist on one side of the Atlantic as well as on the other,—and who are weary of wasting millions to please the cliques by whom alone the old system is attempted to be upheld. Are those who sigh for the good old times mad enough to believe, because there is a change of parties, in England, upon a Corn Law or a Tithe question, that therefore every Colonial Governor is to be withdrawn, every Council dismissed, every Assembly defied? Perish the Nova Scotian who would uphold such a doctrine! The duties of the maternal government are high and important—but the local affairs of these Colonies are confided to Representative Assemblies, whose confidence is an essential element of the Executive Administration, and whose action, within certain defined limits, is equally essential. Ask Sir Robert Peel, who recently moved that memorable resolution, declaring that Parliament could not proceed to business until Her Majesty was surrounded by advisers who possessed its confidence, to blame Lord Falkland for calling round him men who possess yours, or for governing a British Province on British principles! Will he damage his reputation by violating the practice of the Constitution? And for what inducement? To re-establish the old Council of 12, who legislated with closed doors, and held Executive power for life—who governed Governors and People, without being responsible to either. The idea is ridiculous, and those who entertain it can know very little of the Premier or of his principles. When in England, some time ago, I heard men of all parties discuss Colonial questions,—and although there was a want of local information apparent at times, there was a spirit of justice and fairness, which argued well for the establishment of sound liberty in the Colonies, and the perpetuity of British connexion. There is no danger, then, of external influences marring the harmonious conduct of our domestic affairs. The people of this Province have acquired a new power over the Government—they know their rights, and the Nobleman, whose administration I am proud here to defend, knows how to respect them. The new Colonial system confers substantial advantages, and there is no disposition, either in England or in Canada, to abridge them. The true guards of rational liberty, sanctioned by centuries of experience, are treasured in the heads and hearts of our population,—and my belief is, that we have the cordial sanction of almost all the leading minds of England, to the temperate but firm exercise of them in the management of our domestic affairs. In conclusion let me observe, that those who opposed the former Administration came forward in open debate—affirmed principles or defeated measures, but never descended to personal attacks upon the Governor. That gallant old officer left the Province, feeling that he had been in a political battle, which had been honourably conducted