

possessed in virtue of their position. If the advice tendered by the Council on any grave matter was disregarded by the Governor, because it was contrary to the views he himself held, or not in consonance with instructions from Downing Street, his Excellency's advisers were constrained to yield. This state of things was long held, by the leading spirits on the popular side, to be a grave grievance; and to effect a reform was a work to which the rising and ambitious talents of the country addressed themselves earnestly and vehemently. In 1840 the cry for "Responsible Government" was loud and echoed on the floors of the House. Year after year from that date, the agitation was maintained, and in conducting it some of the ablest men the Province has yet produced took the lead. Not until fourteen years after the commencement of the Responsible Government reform movement, did success perch upon the banners of the agitators. In 1854 the reins of power were for the first time wrested from the grasp of those who for half a century and more had tightly held them. Then began the system of government by which the members of the Executive held office and power, not during good behaviour, as of old, but so long as they could command a majority upon the floors of the House of Assembly. Their "good behaviour" is now judged by their good performances, not only in the capacity of advisers to the Lieutenant Governor, but as originators of sound measures for the advancement of the best interests of the country.

This Volume ushers in the dawn of a new political era, commencing with the Fall of 1854, when a strictly party Government upon well defined issues, was formed for the first time, and has been going on ever since, in one continual chain—old links occasionally being removed and new ones substituted—down to the present year—1883. The cause of the downfall of the Administration of 1854, will be fully explained in future pages. The last Lieut. Governor (Sir Edmund Head) like his predecessors, exercised a resolute will; but the arms of the reformers in the Assembly had gradually been gaining strong nerve-force—while the eyes of the people