

tary had obviously come to the opinion that it was necessary to make a radical change which would insure greater harmony between the executive and the popular bodies of the provinces. In these same dispatches, which were forwarded to all the governors, he laid down the principle that thereafter "the tenure of colonial offices held during her Majesty's pleasure will not be regarded as a tenure during good behavior," but that "such officers will be called upon to retire from the public service as often as any sufficient motives of public policy may suggest the expediency of that measure." Her Majesty, he stated emphatically, had "no desire to maintain any system of policy among her North American subjects which opinion condemns" and there was "no surer way of learning the approbation of the queen than by maintaining the harmony of the executive with the legislative authorities." Mr. Poulett Thomson was the governor-general expressly appointed to carry out this new policy. If he was extremely vain,* at all events he was also astute, practical, and well able to gauge the public sentiment by which he should be guided at so critical a period of Canadian history. The evidence is clear that he was not individually in favor of responsible government as it was understood by men like Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Howe when he arrived in Canada. He believed that the council should be one "for the governor to consult and no more," and voicing the doubts that existed in the minds of imperial statesmen he added, the governor "can not be responsible to the government at home" and also to the legislature of the province; if it were so, "then all colonial government becomes impossible." "The governor," in his opinion, "must therefore be the minister, in which case he can not be under control of men in the colony." Sir Francis Hincks, whose opinion in these matters is worthy of consideration, has expressed his belief that Lord Sydenham at the outset had hopes of "being able to find subordinates who would undertake to defend his policy in the house of assembly," and that his object was "to crush party connection."† Be that as it may, Lord Sydenham probably soon found after he had been for a while in the country, and had frequent opportunities of consult-

* This was Greville's opinion of him. See his Journals, under date of January 30, 1836. It is only necessary to read Scrope's Life of Lord Sydenham to find in every line the evidence of his intense egotism.

† See Hincks, "Reminiscences of his Public Life," pp. 41 *et seq.*