

The term "Responsible Government" is, and certainly ought to be of simple solution. It means, and can mean nothing else, than the application of the working of the British Constitution, to the administration of the local affairs of every Colony possessing a representative form of Government modelled on that constitution, precisely in the same manner, and subject to the same liabilities and changes as in the Metropolitan Government, without in the least degree trenching on any question of an imperial nature, or affecting the general policy of the Empire, or the dependency of the Colony upon the Parent state. In carrying out this system the Governor General cannot, or at least ought not, without previously consulting his Executive Council,—Ministry,—Responsible advisers, or by whatever name they may be designated, introduce any measure of a local nature into either Branch of the Legislature, veto any measure matured by them, appoint to any office in the Province, nor do any other act whatever, in the local administration of the Government, without observing this constitutional formality. He is not nevertheless *bound* to follow the advice; and where, on any given occasion, he either abstains from consulting them, or, having done so, acts contrary to their advice, as in the absolute and independent exercise of the Prerogative he most absurdly *may* do, the Ministry, if they deem the act of such a character as to compromise those political principles, by force of which they have been raised to office, or that they otherwise do not choose to assume the responsibility of it, may resign their offices. It is manifest that in this particular the independent exercise, by the Governor General, of the Royal Prerogative, is as necessary for the healthy working of the principle on behalf of the people, as on the part of the Crown; this species of antagonism being the only expedient to which the Governor General can resort in order to rid himself of advisers, whose political influence may be on the