

the government could be carried on independently of the wishes of the legislature; and it soon became clear to the people of the provinces who desired a responsible government that the first and most necessary step was to secure control, not only of their own provincial revenues, which they had not always guarded with sufficient care, but of the crown revenues as well. Indeed, their aim can not be said to have been so much to secure "responsible government" by means of obtaining control of all the public revenues, but rather, simply as a pure business matter, and as an end in itself, to manage what they conceived to be their own property in their own way. This point once gained what was called responsible government necessarily appeared. For when in 1847 the British Government finally surrendered control, Lord Elgin, aside from his own predilections in favour of self-government in the colonies, would have been obliged, as William III. was obliged at the end of the seventeenth century, to choose those ministers who could induce Parliament to vote the supplies.

But during the second quarter of this century the struggle went on. It may perhaps be conveniently divided into three stages :

- I. The struggle to obtain control of the duties levied under acts passed prior to 18 Geo. III.—the Declaratory Act.
- II. The struggle to obtain control of the Revenues arising from the domains of the crown—public lands, mines, forests, the king's posts, etc.