

three of the former council left, they would be constantly maintaining a doubtful struggle for the measures which they considered necessary. They were, however, at length induced to forego their scruples, chiefly upon the representations of some of their friends, that when they had a governor who appeared sincere in his professions of reform, and who promised them his entire confidence, it was neither generous nor prudent to assist in a refusal which might be taken to imply distrust of his sincerity, and they accordingly accepted office. Among the first acts of the governor, after the appointment of this council, was, however, the nomination to some vacant offices of individuals, who were taken from the old official party, and this without any communication with his council. These appointments were attacked by the House of Assembly, and the new council, finding that their opinion was never asked upon these and other matters, and that they were seemingly to be kept in ignorance of all those public measures, which popular opinion nevertheless attributed to their advice, remonstrated privately on the subject with the governor. Sir Francis desired them to make a formal representation to him on the subject; they did so, and this produced such a reply from him as left them no choice but to resign. The occasion of the differences which had caused the resignation, was made the subject of communication between the governor and the Assembly, so that the whole community were informed of the grounds of the dispute.

The contest which appeared to be thus commenced on the question of the responsibility of the executive council, was really decided on very different grounds. Sir F. Head, who appears to have thought that the maintenance of the connection with Great Britain depended upon his triumph over the majority of the Assembly, embarked in the contest with a determination to use every influence in his power in order to bring it to a successful issue. He succeeded, in fact, in putting

the issue in such a light before the province, that a great portion of the people really imagined that they were called upon to decide the question of separation by their votes. The dissolution, on which he ventured, when he thought the public mind sufficiently ripe, completely answered his expectations. The British, in particular, were roused by the proclaimed danger to the connection with the mother country; they were indignant at some portions of the conduct and speeches of certain members of the late majority, which seemed to mark a determined preference of American over British institutions. They were irritated by indications of hostility to British emigration, when they saw, or fancied they saw, in some recent proceedings of the Assembly. Above all, not only they, but a great many others, had marked with envy the stupendous public works which were at that period producing their effect in the almost marvellous growth of the wealth and population of the neighbouring state of New-York; and they reproached the Assembly with what they considered an unwise economy, in preventing the undertaking or even completion of similar works, that might, as they fancied, have produced a similar development of the resources of Upper Canada. The general support of the British determined the elections in favour of the government; and though very large and close minorities which in many cases supported the defeated candidates, marked the force which the reformers could bring into the field, even in spite of the disadvantages under which they laboured from the momentary prejudices against them, and the unusual manner in which the crown, by its representative, appeared to make itself a party in an electioneering contest, the result was the return of a very large majority hostile in politics to that of the late Assembly.

It is rather singular, however, that the result which Sir F. Head appears really to have aimed at was by no means secured by this apparent triumph. His object

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