

it is practically, will always be a matter of great doubt, as much will depend on the ability, integrity, and firmness of the man, and not a little on circumstances. That he will be occasionally embarrassed there can be no doubt, for an *imperium in imperio* is a difficult and complicated thing; but it will doubtless be a great gratification to the Parent State to find that, whatever little dissensions may hereafter arise, they can never be as in bygone days between the local branches of the Legislature, but between those bodies and herself; and what difficulties are there that concession will not remove? Other and minor alterations were also made, the details of which it is not necessary to trouble you with.

In this manner was introduced what is called "Responsible Government," a term which those who first used it have been most careful not to define. Alarmed at the consequences to which it might possibly lead if fully carried out, or uncertain as to its practical effect, they have left it to its own operation, in entirely in error. The undisputed functions of the Governor are such, that he is not only one of the hardest worked servants of the colony, but also has more responsibilities than any other in it. He is responsible to the Crown and Parliament, and the people of the Mother Country, for every act that he performs or suffers to be done, whether it originates with himself, or is adopted on the advice of others. He could not divest himself of that responsibility by pleading the advice of the Council. He is also virtually responsible to the people of the colony, and practically more so than even to the Mother Country: every day proves it, and no resolutions can make it otherwise.

"But if, instead of meaning any of the above-stated impossibilities, you mean that the Government should be administered according to the well-understood wishes and interests of the people, that the resolutions of September 1841 should be faithfully adhered to, that it should be competent to the Council to offer advice on all occasions, whether as to patronage or otherwise, and that the Governor should receive it with the attention due to his constitutional advisers, and consult with them on all cases of adequate importance, that there should be a cordial co-operation and sympathy between him and them, and that the Council should be responsible to the Provincial Parliament and people; and that when the acts of the Governor are such as they do not choose to be responsible for, they should be at liberty to resign, then, I entirely agree with you, and see no impracticability in carrying on Responsible Government in a colony on that footing, provided that the respective parties engaged in the undertaking be guided by moderation, honest purpose, common sense, and equitable minds, devoid of party spirit."

Therefore, resolved, That this House recognise in the above documents the true principles of Colonial Government, as applicable to this province.

This Resolution, of which the above is an extract, is one of the most extraordinary papers ever entered upon the journals of a legislative body. It consists of the adoption, *verbatim*, of four resolutions of the Canadian Legislature, of long extracts from newspaper reports of the speeches of two of the members of their own body, and the answer of the late Lord Metcalf to an address that had been presented to him by the people of the Gore district, without one word of their own on the subject. It may be found on the 67th page of the Journals of the Assembly for 1844.