

objects at present manifestly aimed at, by the party who are exciting obstruction to Her Majesty's government, are, that the authority of the crown shall be a nullity, that the Governor shall be a tool in their hands, and that all the powers of every branch of the constitution shall be usurped and monopolized by an oligarchy, who by any misrepresentation or misconception can obtain the support of a majority in the House of Assembly; so that there shall not be a vestige of the royal prerogative, or of any balance of power in the government. It is against these extravagant and monstrous pretensions that I am now contending; and I am unable to express the wonder with which I regard the inconceivable blindness of those persons, who, really desirous of preserving our connexion with the British empire, do not perceive that the success of such extreme views is incompatible with the relations of a colony with the mother country, and must tend to separation. I confidently rely on the good feeling and discernment of a vast majority of the people for the detection and defeat of schemes, which are either wicked or absurd, according to the animus with which they are respectively prosecuted by their several advocates.

I do not mean in the slightest degree to depart from the system of responsible government established by the arrangements of Lord Sydenham, and the resolutions of September 1841. I regard these jointly, as forming the acknowledged constitution according to which the government of Canada is to be conducted. The real enemies of this system, are the men who would render its successful operation impossible, by asserting the untenable and inadmissible pretensions above described; and who by misrepresentation of my resistance to their intended usurpation, strive to excite disaffection and to poison the minds of the people against me. In the prosecution of these views they pretend, that the unavoidable delay which has taken place in the completion of the Executive Council, and in the nomination of the several heads of departments, is a sign of my desire to set aside responsible government. It is, in truth, a proof of the very reverse. That delay, which no one can lament as much as I do, for no one can be in every respect so interested in its cessation as I am, has been caused, in a great measure, by their avowed and fixed determination to oppose any council not of their selection; and for the rest by my own anxiety to form such an administration as is likely to obtain the confidence of both branches of the Legislature, without which the successful working of responsible government is impracticable.