

blinds them to oppose such an admission; for would it not be monstrous that there should be a part of the empire with which the Imperial Parliament could not interfere, no matter what its internal disorders might be? If this were admitted it would begin the dissolution of the Empire. Accordingly, Lord John Russell's despatch, before quoted, puts a decided negative on this demand, as the resolutions of the Imperial Parliament had done before, so that it is finally denied both by the Crown and the Parliament.

It was argued that it was just as proper and necessary to delegate to the Colonial Legislature the sole right to manage its own local affairs, as it was to delegate this power to a corporation. But this argument is directly in the teeth of those who use it; for no power was ever delegated to a corporation that could not be resumed at the pleasure of the giver, on just occasion being shown. The power delegated to a corporation never exempted it from the supervision of Parliament, as to its management of that power; nor did the latter body ever dream that it had no right to interfere with the former. On the contrary, it is known to all men, that Parliament has interfered with all the Corporations in the Kingdom, and has totally changed the character of most of them, by throwing them open to a more numerous constituency. Thus the argument from corporations is in favour of Parliament interfering in our local affairs, for all the corporations have been interfered with. No power ever was, or ever can be, delegated by Parliament to any body, corporate or otherwise, that was not subject to Parliamentary control, in order to guard against the abuse of that power. Is it not notorious that the old corporations abused their powers? and how were these abuses to be corrected except by the interference of Parliament? The supreme authority of the empire must be supreme in every part, or there is an end to all subordination, unity, and government, and local abuses might grow up in all local affairs, eating through the body like a canker, without any authority being able to apply a remedy. The right of interference in our local affairs is therefore one which cannot be yielded by the Crown and the Imperial Parliament.

But, though this right be reserved, it is as a kind of abstract right, to be exercised very sparingly, and from an evident necessity. All

unnecessary interference in our affairs is as much disapproved by Her Majesty's Government as it can be by any person in the Colony. Hence it is stated in Lord Glenelg's instructions to Sir F. B. Head:—"Parliamentary Legislation on any subject of exclusively internal concern, in any British Colony possessing a Representative Assembly, is, as a general rule, unconstitutional. It is a right of which the exercise is reserved for extreme cases, in which necessity at once creates and justifies the exception." And the before-quoted despatch of Lord John Russell says:—"The Governor must only oppose the wishes of the Assembly where the honour of the Crown, or the interests of the Empire are deeply concerned." A right, the exercise of which is thus guarded need excite no fear in any breast as to its being injuriously exerted. Accordingly, we find that the publication of this last-named despatch made no difference in the conduct of the leading reformers of Upper Canada, who still gave their support to the Governor General, as they had done previously. It is not probable, however, that they would have done thus, if the guarding of this reserved right had stood alone, unaccompanied with other guarantees of good government. Men who look more at words than things taxed the reformers with inconsistency in continuing to support His Excellency, saying that there was no change of system, responsibility to Downing Street remained the same, and thus reformers were supporting the very system against which they had declaimed. The reformers, however, saw that there was a change of system. The right of interference in our local affairs was still reserved, it is true, but it was specially guarded and limited to extreme cases, and was accompanied with other sufficient guarantees against its abuse. They therefore, with commendable patriotism, gave up their opinion on this point, and thus exhibited that spirit of yielding on minor matters which we have seen to be requisite for the preservation of the union with Great Britain.

Of these other sufficient guarantees which led the reformers to adopt this course, the first is, the appointment of practical, experienced statesmen of liberal principles to be Governors of these Colonies. This is in itself a great point gained. For as the complaints had always been chiefly of the administration of the government, to appoint a Statesman of established liberal principles was going to the fountain of