

STRUGGLES FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

respectively. His Excellency the Governor-General selected Mr. Hincks as Premier, and the second Reform ministry was composed of the following gentlemen: Upper Canada, the Hons. Francis Hincks, Dr. John Rolph, W. B. Richards, Malcolm Cameron and James Morris; Lower Canada, the Hons. A. N. Morin, L. T. Drummond, John Young, E. P. Taché and R. E. Caron.

The Hincks-Morin Government had been nearly two years in power when my connection with the press began in 1853, and to give subsequent events their proper setting, a brief *résumé* of the position of political parties towards each other at that time and the important public questions at issue between them will be found necessary as well as useful.

There were then three distinct parties represented in the Legislature and the country. There were, first, the Hincks Ministry and their Reform supporters; second, Sir Allan McNab and an active remnant of the Tory party; and third, Mr. George Brown and a section of the Reform party, chiefly Upper Canadians, who had withdrawn their support from Mr. Hincks and his colleagues.

Lord Elgin's enlightened policy had firmly established Responsible Government, but a considerable number of other questions of vital importance to the peace and prosperity of the Province had attained prominence and were awaiting settlement. Prominent among these were the secularization of the Clergy Reserves, the abolition of the Rectories, the termination of the French Seignorial System, and