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But at least his long term of office did establish the basic usages of responsible government, which in this country, have only rarely been challenged in over 200 years, and in no essential have they been overruled for over a century and a half.

In the King's Dominions overseas the processes of government have arrived at the same ultimate ends of responsibility and autonomous status within the British Commonwealth of Nations. The course was neither swift nor smooth. In Canada, indeed, responsible government appeared as a solution only after men of principle and understanding, driven virtually to desperation in the struggle against privilege and political stagnation, had taken up arms to urge what they believed to be right. In consequence, my grandfather spent many years in exile, and my mother was born into the poverty which that exile involved. It was armed insurrection which finally awakened government in these islands to the political needs and aspirations of Canadians.

Even men of more moderate views - men who had parted company with those who advocated violence - were urging forward the requirements of an orderly and responsible  
/government.