

all the rights and priveleges of Britons, in a perfect recognition in the administration of our affairs of that principle—the responsibility of the Ministers of the Crown to the representatives of the people.

In the absence from your Excellency of constitutional advisers we submit this address, believing that your Excellency only requires to know the true state of public opinion, and the real feelings of the country, to carry out the gracious declaration of her Majesty of her wish and determination that the government in Canada should be administered according to the well-understood wishes and interests of the people.

SIR CHARLES METCALFE'S REPLY.

To the Warden and Councillors of the Gore District.

I receive, gentlemen, with great satisfaction the assurance of your attachment to her Majesty's person and Government, and of your desire to perpetuate the union happily existing between this colony and the great empire of which it forms a part; and I thank you for your courteous expression of personal regard towards myself.

Before I reply to the substance of your address, I must endeavour to remove some erroneous impressions by which it seems to have been dictated.

You suppose me to have been misled by certain imaginary beings, whom you designate as irresponsible and unconstitutional advisers. I am not aware of their existence.

You offer me your opinions in the absence from me, as you say, of constitutional advisers, whereas I have them in the Executive Council.

You speak of the resolutions of September, 1841, as having been exclusively carried into operation under my lamented predecessors; but in no administration have they been so thoroughly carried into operation as in mine.

The substance of your address relates to the resignation of certain members of the late Executive Council, and to the question of Responsible Government, which you conceive to be involved in this proceeding.

The resignation of those gentlemen proceeded from my refusing to agree to certain stipulations which it was unconstitutional for them to demand, and a compliance with which was impossible on my part, as in my judgment it would have involved a surrender of the patronage of the Crown to them for party purposes, an act