

### III.

#### THE CROWN REVENUES.\*

In this essay we shall try to see to what extent the difficulties between Great Britain and her North American colonies during the second quarter of this century may be regarded as a dispute over the control of certain revenues arising in the provinces; and to what extent the granting of responsible government in 1847 was incident to the surrender by Great Britain of all claim to that control.

Until the decade from 1845 to 1855 in all the British North American provinces there existed a distinction, more or less clearly recognized, between the revenues which were at the disposal of the local legislatures and those which were under the exclusive control of the Lords of the Treasury in England or their subordinate officers, the Governors in Council in the different provinces. The former were expended upon local improvements and in payment of the officers of the legislature, the latter for the support of the executive. This, at any rate, was the theory. But in practice the two funds were received and paid out by the same official and were thus very often confused. In each of the colonies, therefore, the Crown Revenues formed a fund by which

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\* Christie's "History of Lower Canada" contains a good many quotations from original sources. The rest must be looked for in the Colonial and State papers, the journals of the Assemblies and Councils, and the public accounts.