

reform gave birth to that Radical Party which ridiculed the idea of Empire.

Responsible  
government.

Effect on  
English  
opinion.

Meanwhile, however, the attention of England was drawn to her overseas dominions, but in a manner more calculated to prevent than to promote closer Imperial unity. English officialdom had not learned the lesson of the American Revolution; hence arose the struggle for colonial self-government. The resistance to this agitation was inspired chiefly by the fear for the integrity of the Empire. The accession of Lord John Russell to power, with Earl Grey as Colonial Secretary, after the fall of Sir Robert Peel's Ministry, saw the end of the struggle. Though Earl Grey laid down the principle that "this country has no interest whatever in exercising any greater influence in the internal affairs of the Colonies than is indispensable, either for the purpose of preventing any one Colony from adopting measures injurious to another, or to the Empire at large,"<sup>1</sup> yet the majority of Englishmen from that time regarded this same clause as a dead letter from the very nature of the case. They thought that the division of interests between the various

<sup>1</sup> Egerton and Grant, *Canadian Constitutional Development*, p. 297.