

restrictions which the despatch particularly mentioned, the Colonial Secretary instructed the Lieutenant-Governor *that no obstacle existed, in his opinion, in the peculiar circumstances of Nova Scotia, to the immediate application to it of the system of Parliamentary Government that prevailed in England.*

*Lord Durham's Commission.*

The Legislative Council, which previously consisted of twelve members, was increased to fifteen, and the number of the Executive (to which all judicial authority was transferred) was limited to nine, but subsequent despatches have authorized the increase of the latter, under special circumstances, and the former was composed of twenty at the close of the last session.

Whether the departmental system of Canada should be introduced into this country has been twice keenly contested between the Conservatives, and the different parties who at present act together under the name of "Great Liberals," and has been alternately rejected and adopted. The Colonial Secretary, actuated by the same kindly feeling that has always influenced his predecessors, and entertaining the same sanguine hope of the effect of concession, has, to a great extent, decided the question in the affirmative.

What the position of the Governor, in relation to his Sovereign, his Council, and the local Legislature is, has been tolerably well settled in theory, by the assembly having formally adopted Lord Metcalf's explanation of it;<sup>1</sup> but what

<sup>1</sup> And whereas his Excellency, Sir Charles Metcalf, has thus explained, in an answer to an address from Gore, in Canada, his views of Responsible Government—

"With reference to your views of Responsible Government, I cannot tell you how far I concur in them, without knowing your meaning, which is not distinctly stated.

"If you mean that the Governor is to have no exercise of his own judgment in the administration of the government, and is to be a mere tool in the hands of the Council, then I totally disagree with you. That is a condition to which I can never submit, and which her Majesty's Government, in my opinion, never can sanction.

"If you mean that every word and deed of the Governor is to be previously submitted for the advice of the Council, then you propose what, besides being unnecessary and useless, is utterly impossible, consistently with the due despatch of business.

"If you mean that the patronage of the Crown is to be surrendered for exclusive party purposes to the Council, instead of being distributed to reward merit, to meet just claims, and to promote the efficiency of the public service, then we are again at issue. Such a surrender of the prerogative of the Crown is, in my opinion, incompatible with the existence of a British colony.

"If you mean that the Governor is an irresponsible officer, who can, without responsibility, adopt the advice of the Council, then you are, I conceive,

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