

FORFEITURE OF CHARTER

[From the *Courrier de St Hyacinthe*, of February 4, 1882.]

The Minister of Justice, Sir Alexander Campbell, has lately given at Ottawa, a most important decision upon a petition asking to prosecute a Bank, in the name of Her Majesty, for forfeiture of charter.

Such a petition was not unknown in the annals of the Ministry of Justice, and, if we deem it proper to make it known now in a special manner, through the press, it is not that we have a hostile object in view against any one, but because all the Provinces of the Dominion are concerned in that petition, and all the citizens as well as Parliament are highly interested in knowing whether corporations may violate their charter, without having to fear the hand of justice, and, whether their influence over the government be great enough to impede it in the fulfilment of its duty.

The question of right which have been argued, have a close connexion with some of the principles which are the basis of the English constitution, and thereby, highly concern all classes of society. If the ideas emitted by the minister of justice be correct, it will become a necessity to redress the existing evil, and to adopt, in the parliamentary session which will begin in a few days, a legislation able to remove the defects of the law. It will become the duty of the government to consider seriously which is the wisest line of conduct to follow, in order that, in the future, the law may reach incorporated bodies by an act of parliament, in the same manner as it reaches private individuals. It will also become the duty of Parliament to see that the scale of justice be so well regulated as not to turn more on one side than the other, so as to make it an impossibility for the public interest to be wronged in one case more than another.