

those who suffered most, the exiles to Bermuda and New South Wales, should be paid first. When a regiment mutinies, every tenth man is sometimes called out and shot, not because he is more guilty than others, but for example. So was an example made of many in Canada, who suffered vicariously for the assumed offences of the masses. To exclude those who had *paid the penalty*, not only of their own offence, but that of others, was mean and mincing, and I detest things mean or mincing, even in "Reformers." On the general principles of the Bill it would be bad taste for *me* to speak, I must be silent; but on this particular feature I am free.

I signed, moreover, as a distinct approval of what are called the "riotous proceedings," for the loyalists had promised to pelt the Governor, and I admired the spirit with which they carried out their determination. The native of a British American colony, I have, like others who have gone before me, a hereditary grudge against colonial governors, as a race who have never been pelted so often as they have deserved. Smashing windows and pelting obnoxious officials have been strictly "British practice" from time immemorial, and consequently may, as such, be considered part and parcel of "responsible government;" it is the only privilege secured to a minority.

I deplore most sincerely the recent destruction of property, but I cannot overlook that more value in property was annihilated by the Governor's sanction to the tariff at five o'clock than was destroyed by the mob at nine; because an Act which, instead of inviting capital and artisans to the country, drives away what we have; banishes that labour which makes property valuable.

I approve of the "proceedings" (apart from the destruction of property), because I believe them to be the commencement of the end, which will annihilate "responsible government" thoroughly and for ever in these provinces. And were the terrific consequences to be well-being of the people, attendant upon the continuance of this hideous conceit, as plain upon the vision of all as they are to me, we should consider the riddance cheaply purchased. We must have a government of law, not of "will." Each branch of the Legislature must be independent of the other, and executive powers must be separated from the legislative.

I am quite aware that my signing will offend many that I am always sorry to displease; but, appealing to their better judgment, I beg them to recollect that I entered the field of politics on the evening of the 21st May, 1832, and continued, like a knight-errant, battling for others, without seeking companionship or asking reward, at a time, too, when few of my own standing, with an English name, dared appear openly in the "Liberal" ranks of Lower Canada. The sacrifice of personal considerations was great; not one has suffered more in the game of politics than myself. English Liberals were scarce in Montreal when it cost something to be a Liberal. They are plentiful now, when the danger is past, and men are paid for being "Liberals."

On my return to the country, after nearly six years' absence in the far South—far away from a knowledge of passing events in Canada—I found a new shuffle and cut of the political cards. Men that I had left bitter enemies had become sworn friends; others left friends I found at daggers' points; and with antipathies against none, I have endeavoured to remain friends with all, without in any way interfering in the new disputes of (to me) new factions. Responsible government I denounce, not as a party question, but for its own inherent elements. The party in power cannot pretend to be my party of 1837. No; that party has ceased to exist, as a party; and, having joined no other, I imagine that no man has a right to question my exercise of my own best judgment in new issues, upon which I in no way stand committed. Occupied from early morning till late night in busy pursuits, far removed from mere party politics, I have no desire to see my name in print; but having been put there, I may, without presumption, define my own position. I have only time to play my own cards, and cannot follow the run of other people's.

I am, &c.,

Montreal, May 7, 1849.

T. S. BROWN.

(No. 50.)

No. 2.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Right Hon. the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE to Earl GREY.

Government House, Montreal,

May 21, 1849.

(Received June 5, 1849.)

MY LORD,

LITTLE has occurred during the past week that calls for special report from me. Parliament has continued its sittings without interruption, and got through a good deal of business. The peace of the city of Montreal has not been disturbed. It is, however, much to be feared that the members of some of the secret societies are organizing and arming themselves, and that there exists in certain quarters a determination to seize an early opportunity to make some desperate effort against the Government, though, with what precise object or in what cause, is not known. Of the spirit which animates the leaders in this movement, your Lordship may judge from the enclosed article