

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; \* but what

it is practically, will always be a matter of great doubt, as much will depend on the ability, integrity, and firmness of the man, and not a little on circumstances. That he will be occasionally embarrassed there can be no doubt, for an *imperium in imperio* is a difficult and complicated thing; but it will doubtless be a great gratification to the Parent State to find that, whatever little dissensions may hereafter arise, they can never be as in bygone days between the local branches of the Legislature, but between those bodies and herself; and what difficulties are there that concession will not remove? Other and minor alterations were also made, the details of which it is not necessary to trouble you with.

In this manner was introduced what is called "Responsible Government," a term which those who first used it have been most careful not to define. Alarmed at the consequences to which it might possibly lead, if fully carried

\* 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 dispatch 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, entirely in error. The undisputed functions of the Governor are such, that he is not only one of the hardest worked servants of the colony, but also has more responsibilities than any other in it. He is responsible to the Crown and Parliament, and the people of the Mother Country, for every act that he performs or suffers to be done, whether it originates with himself, or is adopted on the advice of others. He is not divest himself of that responsibility by consulting the advice of the Council, and is constitutionally responsible to the Crown and Parliament, and practically more so to the people of the country: every day his signature, and apud can make it otherwise.

"But if, in the meaning any of the above stated in the question, you mean that the Gov-

ernment should be administered according to the well-understood wishes and interests of the people, that the resolutions of September 1841 should be faithfully adhered to, that it should be competent to the Council to offer advice on all occasions, whether as to patronage or otherwise, and that the Governor should receive it with the attention due to his constitutional advisers, and consult with them on all cases of adequate importance that there should be a cordial co-operation and sympathy between him and them, and that the Council should be responsible to the Provincial Parliament and people; and that when the acts of the Governor are such as they do not choose to be responsible for, they should be at liberty to resign, then, I entirely agree with you, and see no impracticability in carrying on Responsible Government in a colony on that footing, provided that the respective parties engaged in the undertaking be guided by moderation, honest purpose, common sense, and equitable minds, devoid of party spirit.

"Therefore, resolved, That this House recognize in the above documents the true principles of Colonial Government, as applicable to this province."

This Resolution, of which the above is an extract, is one of the most extraordinary ever entered upon journals of a Legislature. It consists of the adoption, *verbatim*, of four resolutions of the Canadian Legislature, of long extracts from newspaper reports of the speeches of two of the members of their own body, and the answer of the late Lord Metcalf to an address that had been presented to him by the people of the Gore district, without one word of their own on the subject. It may be found on the 67th page of the Journals of the Assembly for 1844.