

must call the reverend champion to order. He leads us to believe that nothing has ever been said in behalf of the Government, or that if it has, it must have been so contemptible as to be unworthy of notice. Now we do think that he has made a bad point at starting.

He throws the whole Tory press of Montreal, of Kingston, Toronto, and every other place into one boat. He tosses in along with them all the half and half politicians, whose exertions in behalf of the Governor resounded from Gaspé to Sandwich, and were wafted across the Atlantic in numerous publications. All are bundled in, the Governor's answers are nothing—(what will Mr. Higginson say?) In he tumbles with the rest, and Oh! *horribile dictu*—the *Colonist*, which has so nobly fought the battle, is not spared.—His columns are made to announce the fact, that all the matter, heavy and important as he may have thought it, with which they have been loaded was nothing. Into the same boat he must tumble, and be regularly scuttled with the rest, that a clear ship may be afforded for the Admiral, who is to bring out his hundred and fifty great gun ship to batter down the British Constitution!

This is all very valorous, but there seems a sad misgiving with the reverend author himself that the effort will end like "Thermopylae." Alas! it will be to him a Thermopylae in the cause of Xerxes. Leonidas, it is true, led the forlorn hope—so does Mr. Ryerson. Their fates may be alike, but their fame will be widely different. The bright visions of Leonidas, when he fell with his face to the enemy, will be far from him who bites the dust in suppressing the liberties of his country.

The reverend gentleman requests editorial notices. We have thought it our duty to do so thus early, and we doubt not in due time he will be quite satisfied on that head.

DR. RYERSON—THE GOVERNMENT —AND THE LATE MINISTRY.

To the Editor of the Globe.

TORONTO.

SIR,—What value the Government may be disposed to attach to the influence supposed to be brought to it by the appointment of Dr. Ryerson, as Assistant to the Chief Superintendent of Common Schools, I shall not pretend to say; but the circumstances connected with that appointment, the motives of the Governor General in offering, and of Dr. Ryerson in accepting the office ought not to be forgotten. I do not pretend to divine the secrets of Government, nor the motives which actuate any man or class of men; but there are ever in public transactions some prominent features pointing so directly to the more active causes of their existence, that it is impossible to avoid associating those causes with their effects. The Government is certainly justifiable in endeavouring to strengthen its cause by every lawful means in its power; and men for accepting office so long as they act consistently with their acknowledged political views, or having conscientiously changed those views, they frankly confess and renounce their previous errors; but that man is justly obnoxious to the expressed indignation of his countrymen, who, by attaching himself to the Government, condemns a Ministry whom he has supported, and supports a Government which he has condemned, while that Government, from its avowed intentions, or at least overt acts, remains unchanged;

D'Alembert has well remarked, that "the criterion by which to judge of kings, is the men in whom they place confidence," and enumerates, in proof of the correctness of his statement, those most trusted and favored by Louis XIV. Bossuet and Fenelon were preceptors of his son and grandson; under these two distinguished divines were Huet and Fleury, men of learning and rare merit. His

Generals and Ministers were Turenne, Conde, Luxembourg, and Colbert. The appreciation which this monarch displayed of virtue, learning and abilities, affords a criterion by which to judge of the motives which actuated him. If we apply this criterion of D'Alembert to the Executive of this Province, we certainly shall not infer that Responsible Government is a favorite of His Excellency. Why, during the interim of a Cabinet, are those the confidants of the Executive, who were not the advocates of Responsible Government? It is a circumstance of small import, what opinions or intentions may have been expressed, "the criterion by which to judge of kings is the men in whom they place confidence." If His Excellency has not declared with sufficient distinctness his secret opinions and determined course, what more unerring index do we require than the men in whom he has placed confidence? If a Draper and a Sherwood are a nucleus, around which a future Council is to be gathered, the complexion of that Council, as well as their acts, can be read and known of all men as well before as after their existence. The criterion is before us,—the men in whom the king places confidence." It is manifest that a struggle will arise at the coming election, and Mr. Ryerson has been presented with an office for the purpose of gaining over to the Government the influence of the Methodist Church.

This appointment is not a casual incident, unconnected with political movements, resting upon personal favour or real merit; but is a link in a political chain, reaching forward to the momentous interests of the future, designed to fetter with indissoluble bands the principle of Executive responsibility. It is thus far unfavorable to the advocates of Responsible Government; and may be regarded as an implied reproach of the stability of the members of the Methodist community. In this implication, the incumbent of the office to which we have referred, is more concerned than the Government; for he has bartered himself as the product of the entire body. In that body there are many who have always ranked amongst the most ardent of the Conservatives. These will remain as they were; and so also, we may predict, will the advocates of Responsible Government, who constitute an overwhelming majority. The declaration that the office of Superintendent of Common Schools is not political, will avail nothing. The community will give it no credit, when given under such circumstances, to a violent political partizan.

The country is fully acquainted with Mr. R.'s devoted attachment to the principles maintained by the late Ministry at and since their resignation, and his unreserved condemnation of the Government, to intense were his feelings, that he even contemplated writing an appeal to the country, for the purpose of popular excitement for which his abilities exclusively qualify him. This he doubtless would have done had he not accidentally met with or rode with His Excellency. He is known to have declared that the policy of the Governor General arose from a well-laid scheme between himself and the Colonial Secretary, to prevent the favorable application of Responsible Government—that various methods had been adopted to ensnare the late Ministry, and either to compel them to resign or to resort to measures which would divide their supporters. First, the question for the removal of the Seat of Government was a well-laid plan of the Colonial Secretary to embarrass the Ministry, and render their resignation necessary; or should they continue the advisers of His Excellency, they must give offence to one-half of their party. For should they advise the removal of the Seat of Government from this portion of the United Province, they would lose their adherents in

this Province; but should they advise its continuance here they must lose the influence of the French. Upon the failure of this scheme the Secret Societies' Bill was introduced, as a Government measure, directed principally against the Orangemen, that the Ministry might give offence to that large and influential portion of the community. These and other deeply concerted plans of the Home Government, failed according to the representations of the reverend gentleman. If these facts were not known through the length and breadth of the land, I should not speak of them thus freely. But they are matters of history.

Not a word is uttered now against the Government. They are liberal—they are consistent. The late Ministry are in fault. Why this reverse of feeling? Why did the reverend gentleman write to his brethren in this city to put the Hon. Mr. Baldwin out of the chair, as President or Chairman of the Anniversary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, to which he had been invited? Why did not that Committee comply with the request? They were consistent men, and of a higher price than to be bought by the promises of Government. Where then is consistency? The whole secret may be told in one line:—The Governor-General had been visited, and the promise of an office received. The interests of the country may take care of themselves, as I have of mine! His Excellency doubtless understood the strong and weak points of his visitant, proposes a ride in a coach and four, places the knees of his guest between his own, as John Toronto had done before him, and the conquest is achieved. But it will be necessary before the story ends, for each Methodist to be subjected to the same process, as they are now becoming quite independent thinkers, and wish individually a little honor. His Excellency may imagine, that by gaining Mr. R. to his cause, he has also gained the influence of the Methodist Church, but I regret that he should have allowed himself to be thus deceived. Mr. R. may have made what pledges, or promises, or insinuations he found necessary to gain his points, and to persuade the Governor that his influence would bring over the Methodists with him. But it is all a delusion. We know this gentleman far better than his Excellency. We are acquainted with the whole game, from the notorious impressions made on that individual's pliant mind from his first visit to England down to the present time, both in Church and State. And most advisedly do we state that his Excellency will receive less support from the great body of Methodism by the admission of Mr. R. to his train. We understand perfectly well why he was transformed from a Whig to a Tory, on his visit to England. Then "the moderate Tories possessed the greatest influence, magnificent wealth, and chief intelligence of the union." We know why he co-operated with Mackenzie,—why he supported the late Ministry in power, but forsook them when out. We understand why the head of the vane turns toward that part of the heavens whence the strongest breeze emanates. It is sufficiently evident that His Excellency expects thus to gain the influence of the Methodists. Should he not now be supported by them; the Superintendent of Common Schools will be a cumbersome, useless burden, clogging the wheels of Government. It is quite certain that the members of his own communion will not be influenced in the smallest degree by any of the successive phases of one who desires to be regarded as their spokesman and the very representative of their creed; and who doubtless made the impression on the mind of his Excellency that their political faith could be shaped by his single fiat. Should the expectations of the

[Continued in February Number.]