

struction. In the one case the reverence due the Sovereign being insensibly diminished by the contempt engendered for the office of Her Representative; in the other the harmony of the Province being endangered by the violation of a principle which the British Government in the last two years has affirmed, and Earl Grey as Colonial Secretary has sealed by acts of unmistakeable significance." The hon. and learned member might surely have couched his ideas in milder terms. He has thought fit, however, to commit a breach of all propriety by levelling his sarcasms at the Queen's Representative, instead of at the administration. But let me tell that hon. gentleman that the entire independence of the local government, in the sense here recited, has never been conceded. I admit that Lord Grey, having frankly yielded the principles of Responsible Government, has left them here, as in Canada, to their natural and appropriate development; giving us good counsel when he thinks us wrong, and husbanding his great powers for great occasions; he does not controul our free action in questions purely Provincial, or irritate and obstruct by needless interference. But Lord Grey could yet send his instructions to dismiss or to reinstate any officer holding office during pleasure; and the learned member knows right well that the power to reject measures passed by this Colonial Legislature is yet retained by the home ministry. Having then shewn the preamble to be unsound in principle, as well as unfair in expression, I shall briefly refer to the resolutions. The first opens with this line; "that to avert the evils of renewing questions of government;" the hon. gentleman might have added—"I will do my utmost to get up a partisan debate upon the Constitution. But does he ever expect to prevent the discussion of questions of Government? If so, he is much mistaken; so long as men are sent here—the representatives of constituencies in this Province—so long will he find that questions of Government will be renewed, as in every popular assembly, day by day. But again we are told that "Our Constitution having been established by Imperial authority it is proper that the Lt. Governor should be re-

cognised as an Imperial functionary."

Why, what in the name of common sense is he? The Queen's Representative, must, to a large extent, be an Imperial functionary—charged to protect the prerogatives of the Sovereign and the interests of the Empire—but he is at the same time the Governor of this Colony, guarding the interests—and advancing the welfare of this people. Each of these honorable obligations is perfectly compatible with the other. But "he is to hold no relation to Colonial affairs—beyond the ceremonials of office." Will the hon. gentleman favor us with the scheme by which he intends to carry out this bright idea. Suppose he were to walk up to the Lieutenant Governor—with his resolutions in his hand—and a large Committee of this House at his back, and say, please your Excellency—the House of Assembly say you are an Imperial functionary—the hon. member might wish to add an "*impériquus*" functionary also. Well, the Lieutenant Governor would naturally enough reply, "I cannot help what the House of Assembly style me—there is not much in a name—we need not dispute about it." "But, please your Excellency, there is something else, you are to be a mere nonentity—to be denuded of all power—to do naught but wear your cocked hat and sword and attend to the ceremonials of office." Fancy the learned gentleman in a position to use such language. He would soon be made aware of the fact, that the Queen's prerogative is a little too powerful to be taken away by such resolutions as this: "I am an Imperial functionary," his Excellency might say,—"and you seek to divest me of all the Queen's prerogatives. The people judge first between you and me, and then we shall see if the Sovereign's power here does not pass for something." The learned member once accused us of attempting "to wrest the prerogative" from a Lieutenant Governor, merely because we chose to retire from his Council—when we could not concur in his acts. He aims at direct usurpation, and would surely earn his reward. The next Resolution goes on to say that, "to fix this character to the office, it is proper the Lieutenant Governor should be paid entirely by the Imperial Government."—