

power, and to place the necks of the people again under the foot of Executive tyranny.

Let the people therefore beware. Let them be fully alive to the importance of passing events. Let them not think too lightly of what, at first sight, may appear to be trifling and of small moment. They may be assured that beneath a fair exterior are at work means which they little dream of, that beneath the apparently smooth surface runs a black, dark current which may sweep away the last remnant of our prosperity and our liberties. *Let them therefore not be deceived.* This is my solemn warning and I again tell you *beware.*

The difficulty between his Excellency and his Council involves the dearest principles of our Government. If the Country stands true to itself all will yet go well, but if through deception and misrepresentation or by any means the people desert their friends and support the Governor General in his present course, they will commit an error which they may never retrieve.

But before I proceed any further in my observations, I will endeavor to give you a plain account of our present difficulties, and when I have done so, I think you will admit that this is an important crisis in our affairs. Of course I need not tell you that formerly we had no such thing as a proper Constitutional Administration in the Province. That our affairs were conducted in the worst manner, and that consequently dissatisfaction and discontent among the people existed to a most alarming extent—so much so that the British Government found it necessary to send out here Lord Durham, one of her best and greatest Statesmen, to inquire into, and remedy the numberless abuses of which we complain. He made and published his celebrated Report, which doubtless, every one has either read or heard of. In it he clearly and forcibly pointed out our grievances and the remedy for them. He then returned to England and died. Next came Lord Sydenham. Treading as nearly as possible in the footsteps of Lord Durham, he