

This was not the only charge against the Government, but it was the main one and perhaps the most damaging. The Opposition complained also that this Government was but a continuation of the old one, extending over a period of very many years—indeed since the appointment of Mr. Wilmot to the Bench, and the withdrawal of the Hon. Mr. Fisher, it had resolved itself into its original elements—"the old family compact." From time to time changes had been made—when one member went out, another took his place; it was therefore what might be called an involutory Government—the old leaven was in the lump, and no new patch put upon it could, in the eyes of the Opposition, alter its complexion. It was a change of men without change of principles. And so it was said that the faults committed (it might have been thirty years before) were visited upon the heads of the present incumbents, as if they were equally the guilty parties, because when they took office, these faults had not been expiated; and therefore the responsibility in a direct line descended to "the third and fourth generations" of Executive Councillors. But then the defence had something to say in extenuation if not in justification of *their* conduct, and give their views of the Constitution. And here it may be remarked that the old British axiom,—“The Queen can do no wrong,”—seems to have lost its meaning on this occasion; for although her representative is supposed to be enshrined under the same peculiar fiction, “the divinity that doth hedge a King,” His Excellency’s name and conduct were dealt with upon the floors of the House day after day, as if he alone were guilty of the chief wrong committed, and for which his Council were now put upon their trial.

The Attorney General (the Hon. John Ambrose Street) made one of the most able and forcible speeches ever delivered in the House, in answer to the lucid speeches in opposition. (In print it would probably make twenty five pages, size of this.) He complained that the Opposition should have taken the present opportunity to try and defeat the Government, when the Legislature had been called together for a special purpose—to consider the Reciprocity Treaty