

1828 and of 1834 dissuaded any Parliamentary interference, and advised that the subject should be referred exclusively to the conduct of the Executive Government. This kind of neutrality of Parliament has been dictated by much apparent wisdom. It has left open a resource to which resort might be had upon any extreme emergency. It has given to the contest an administrative rather than a National character. It leaves the door of hope open, and raises a barrier against those precipitate movements to which in the excitement of local dissensions men might otherwise be hurried. The reverence with which the House of Commons, especially in its reformed character, is even yet regarded in British North America, is a spell not to be broken except at the bidding of inevitable necessity.

To invoke the aid of Parliament in vain, would be ruinous to the object in view. To invoke it successfully, would be to commit the Legislature to a strife from which, when once engaged in it, they could scarcely retreat at all, and could certainly not retreat except with a complete triumph, or with signal disgrace. Any Minister who should apply to Parliament for support, would have given to the whole controversy a new critical and irretrievable character, whatever might be the result of his application.

Suppose however the Statute 1st and 2nd Wm IV to be repealed. What are the consequences to be anticipated? This question is proposed and answered by the Commissioners collectively, and