

truth. The individual last alluded to is Mr. Roblin, then member for the county of Prince Edward, and the offices which he received while serving on the Oxford Committee were the Collectorship of Customs at Picton, the Agency for Crown Lands and the Registrarship of the County. He, of course, vacated his seat in Parliament; and, to the deep mortification of the Ministers, a Reformer was elected in his place. I will not trespass on your Lordship's time by referring to the contested elections for Middlesex and West Hants, neither of which were decided on the merits, and the petitioners in both cases obliged to give up the contest after vain efforts to obtain justice. I will content myself by assuring your Lordship that the present parliamentary majority has been obtained by the grossest fraud, and that the House of Assembly does not represent the public opinion of the country.

I have called your Lordship's attention to the treatment which the opposition has received from the Ministers and their supporters in the matter of the contested elections; let me now state the circumstances under which Mr. Inspector General Cayley obtained a seat in Parliament. When that gentleman accepted office he was comparatively speaking unknown never having taken any part in public affairs. It was necessary for him to obtain a seat in Parliament, and Ministerial influence was insufficient to procure one by legitimate means. After fruitless efforts in other quarters, the member for the county of Huron (Dr. Dunlop) was literally purchased with an office created for the occasion and the duties of which he is wholly incapable of performing. Dr. Dunlop made no secret of the terms of the contract and frankly informed his constituents that his necessities compelled him to accede to them. The influence of the Government in a new and thinly peopled county was sufficient to secure Mr. Cayley's election. I put it to your Lordship whether such trafficking with the patronage of the Crown would be tolerated in England.

Your Lordship has doubtless been assured that Lord Metcalfe was eminently successful in his Government of Canada and that he left behind him an administration strong in public confidence. Your Lordship may have heard of the "Caron correspondence" which was brought to light during last Session. You ought most certainly to peruse it. From it you will learn that previous to the departure of Lord Metcalfe, Mr. Draper the leading member of the administration opened a negotiation with Mr. Caron an avowed member of the opposition party, the object of which was to reconstruct the administration in such a manner as to obtain for it a larger amount of parliamentary support. Mr. Caron did not pretend to be the leader of the opposition, and he was authorized by Mr. Draper to consult with his friends. He accordingly opened a correspondence with Mr. LaFontaine the acknowledged leader of the opposition, and urged him to consent to an arrangement under which Mr. Morin another opposition leader would be brought into power with other friends, while Mr. LaFontaine to whom personal objections were entertained by Lord Metcalfe was to be provided for on the bench or otherwise. In the course of this correspondence Mr. Draper fully admitted the weakness of the administration as then constructed. Mr. LaFontaine refused to be a party to any such arrangement as was proposed but suggested the constitutional mode of