

I have shewn, that the permission to which the late Ministers appealed, as entitling them to give their explanations, had no existence ; that in this respect they had not even the colour of a pretention to the right they claimed.

I have likewise shewn, with respect to the only documents which are relied upon as affording grounds for an Address in their favour, that, (apart from all consideration of the inconsistency of the steps taken to bring them before this House, with the usages of Parliament and the principles of justice,) they could only have the effect of making the late Ministers appear suddenly discharged from all responsibility, in order to throw the whole weight of it upon the Governor who had no mode of defending himself. A strange fashion this of understanding Responsible Government ! It would be a contradiction in terms if applied to a government of any kind, and would upset all received notions of the principles on which alone a government can be supported.

The proceeding which Honorable Members are urging this House to adopt, far from strengthening the system which they admire and think they are supporting, can only tend to shake it to its foundations ; their carrying it would only be a proof that the people of this Province may lose sight of the most elementary principles, not only of Responsible Government, but of Government of any other kind, upon whatever system it may be organized.

One of the greatest dangers a people can run, is to lower its character by acts at variance with those essential principles which are the true safeguard of its rights, while they assure the stability of its Government. If it were true, that the resolution before us, and the speeches of Honorable Members on this occasion, breathe the