

ble for the acts of the Government, and because he was pleased to consider the claim advanced by the Council, to be advised with on all acts of the Government, an attempt to impair the Royal Prerogative, and to make the Governor-General a tool in the hands of the Council.

The enemies of Responsible Government saw in this declaration of His Excellency a nullification of the whole principle of Responsible Government. For if the Government could be conducted without advice of the Council, the Council could not be held responsible for the acts of the Government. And if the Governor could take the advice of any persons not in office, and act upon it in preference to taking the advice of the Council,—those who had not the confidence of the Parliament had the same opportunity of being advised with as those who possessed that confidence, the advice of the former having the same chance of being followed as the advice of the latter. Then, if the Governor's individual sentiments on political subjects were those of the minority, he would under this system follow the advice of the minority: and consequently the Constitutional advisers of the Crown would be placed in open opposition to His Excellency, or else be forced to take upon themselves the responsibility and defence of acts of which they disapproved.

If either of these cases *could exist* at the same time with the Resolutions of 1841, and with Responsible Government, there would be nothing in either, opposed to the views of the most ardent partizans of arbitrary power in the Province; and as His Excellency undertook the task of making these circumstances co-exist, and of reconciling them by his interpretations, it was not for the enemies of Responsible Government to object: for according to His Excellency's views, they had been fighting with an empty name—and as the substance would be granted to them, they gave up the contest as far as the name was concerned. They in fact continued consistent advocates for the exercise of irresponsible power—for passive dependence on the will of a Governor; and they placed Responsible Government, in His Excellency's interpretation of it, upon their banners, the moment they were convinced that, according to that interpretation, it meant nothing.

For the same reason, that is to say, because, according to the interpretation of His Excellency, Responsible Government means nothing, and because we contend for a substance and not for a