

THE PRESENT CRISIS.

BY THE REFORMER.

"Give him heedful note :

For I mine eyes will rivet to his face ;

And, after, we will both our judgments join

In censure of his *seeming*"—*Shakspeare.*

NEVER during the existence of Canada as a Colony of Great Britain, have the affairs of the country arrived at a more important crisis than at the present time. Although the newspaper presses, either from the indolence of their conductors, or their indifference to the political interests of their readers, have not been employed in arousing the public feeling to a due appreciation of the emergency, yet there can be no doubt that the country, from Penetanguishine to Gaspé, is thoroughly, and fearfully awakened to the disgraceful position in which the Government of the Province has been thrust. Never under Sir P. Maitland, with his Gagging Bills and Transportation Laws—never under Sir John Colborne, with his High Church and Monopoly nostrums,—never under Bond Head, Arthur, or the one-man power of Mr. Poulett Thompson, have the people had more reason to be thoroughly disgusted and indignant, than now, when the Metcalfe-Cathcart sway is at an end. This state of things has been brought about by the swindle perpetrated upon the country in the elections of 1844,—by the direct interference of the Governor General in those elections,—by the falsehoods disseminated by him at that time, in the course of that unconstitutional intermeddling,—and by the incompetency, insincerity, low-craft, and downright rascality, evinced since, by those pretending to be the exponents of the well-understood wishes of the people.

We trace many of the bad consequences of this bad way of lording it over the Canadian population, (we do not call it by the respectable name of *governing*.) to the Hon. W. H. Draper, Attorney General of Canada West, and we proceed to state our reasons for this belief, irrespective of the fact, that for the last two years he has deservedly been the mark at which have been aimed many of the truth-pointed shafts of some of the best writers of the country. He does not seem to have got his allowance, notwithstanding the hacking and lashing his doublet has received ; and it is therefore not ungenerous to bring him again before the public, so long as he remains in power, and is enabled to pursue the same system of tactics with our new Governor General, which resulted in the ruin of Bond Head and Lord Metcalfe.

Until the arrival of Sir Francis Bond Head, in the winter of 1836, the Government of the Province had been conducted with all the Military and ultra-Tory predilections, it is true, of the different old martinets that