

prises all those who were *office-holders* under the *old*, and have become disappointed *office-seekers* under the *new* state of things. They are men who enjoyed the emoluments of station either through accident or design under an irresponsible system, but who, not possessing the requisite qualifications, or the confidence of the people, have been compelled to retire under a system of responsibility. These individuals can readily estimate their own loss, and are consequently well prepared to condemn the measures that have occasioned it. Their moving principle is self-interest, and, like true hypocrites, they pretend to great concern about the interests of their fellow subjects. The other class consists of individuals whose claims upon public place have been unnoticed alike under *both* systems, and who have always distinguished themselves in the work of agitation. They are men dissatisfied with all measures of which themselves have not made the proposal; they repudiate the attempts at ~~making~~ any machinery not under their own control, and view with a suspicious eye every Corporation that excludes their honourable personages from its counsels. We shall have occasion to refer to this latter class hereafter.

Among the regulations enacted under the new system of things in this country may be prominently ranked the Municipal and Education Acts—the former designed to give the people the immediate control over their own local affairs, the latter calculated to bring the blessings of an elementary education (sufficient for the ordinary purposes of life) within reach of the humblest classes of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects; laudable objects indeed, and likely to do more towards promoting the happiness of Canadian society than all other legislative enactments put together. To judge of the expediency of these measures, we have only to apply carefully the following rule of Blackstone, (I. 87 :) “There are three points to be considered in the construction of all remedial statutes: the *old law*, the *mischief*, and the *remedy*; that is, how the common law stood at the making of the Act; what the mischief was for which the common law did not provide; and what remedy the Parliament hath provided to cure this mischief. It is the business of the judges so to construe the Act, as to suppress the mischief and advance the remedy.”

The “mischiefs” arising from the old regulations relative to the local affairs and Common Schools of Lower Canada are too well known to require particular enumeration here. They are matters of history. In the former instance, bad roads, unequal distribution of statute labours, inefficient regulations with regard to houses of public entertainment, &c. &c.; and in the latter, no certain or reliable funds for the erection of school houses, incompetent teachers, children growing up in ignorance, and the fair prospect of a regu-