

nation of the late Ministry, involving, as it does, the vital principle of Responsible Government. There has always been a great anxiety manifested on the part of the Crown, both in our own and in other countries, to maintain its prerogatives subject to as little control as possible, and it ought not, therefore, to have been a matter of much surprise that the people of this Province had to pass through a long struggle to obtain that just control over the prerogative which their fellow subjects in Britain obtained at the time of the Revolution of 1688. But we have a right to express surprise when we find that, after all the difficulties that have been experienced in this Province, owing to the want of constitutional government, after our long and arduous contest having terminated, as we were led to believe it had, by the concession of the great principle of Responsible Government, *as practised in England*, the Imperial Government are determined to make another struggle, a fruitless and absurd one it must be, to support the Governor of Canada in an undue exercise of the Royal Prerogative. Attempts have been made, gentlemen, to induce you to believe that Responsible Government is fully admitted by the distinguished individual at the head of the government. It is true, indeed, that the term Responsible Government has been used, but that is not what we want. We must have the substance, not the shadow. The very object of Responsible Government is to control the prerogative, by providing the Governor with advisers possessed of public confidence. If, however, the Governor is to make appointments to office, either without or against the advice of his responsible advisers, it must be obvious to every man of common understanding that all the advantages of Responsible Government would be lost. Can you imagine for one moment, gentlemen, that any set of men will remain in office if appointments are to be made prejudicial to their influence? The very idea is absurd. A government acting in such a manner as to destroy itself! And yet the Governor declares, in almost every one of his answers to addresses, that the appointments are to be made without reference to party considerations. Notwithstanding this declaration, gentlemen, I fear that none of us, no matter how well qualified we may be to fill office, will be honored with an offer. Indeed I should have a very poor opinion of the judgment of those who would make us one—unless with the view of purchasing either silence or support. Nothing, I confess, has appeared to me more absurd than the complaints made against the late ministry because they would not consent to remain in office while appointments were made for which they were held responsible, and which were prejudicial to their influence. I know that in England the statesman who would submit to such a system of government would be looked upon as bereft of his senses. Let me, gentlemen, give you a practical illustration of the effect of such a system. I will suppose that I have been elected your representative, pledged to the principles which I have always maintained, viz., that all classes of the people should be placed on a footing of perfect equality as regards religious and educational endowments, and that the people should be allowed the entire management of their own local affairs. I will suppose that persons of the same political opinions are in the majority in Parliament, and on the principles of Responsible Government, that the Provincial Ministry of which I am a member, profess the same opinion. I will next suppose that a vacancy occurs in one of the District offices, and that it is filled up by the appointment of the party of the minority, a man

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