

nterly contradictory. Again, the preamble goes on to say, "Nor is it less obligatory on the House to obtain more *stability and certainty* for the principles of Provincial Government than can be now relied on—the present Secretary of State for the Colonies having, both in declarations and acts, shown that a Minister of the Crown in the administration of Colonial Affairs may hold himself free to disallow what a predecessor in the exercise of his official functions had established." The hon. gentleman wishes to ensure stability and certainty to our form of government, and in order to effect this most desirable object he calls upon this House to aid him in changing the constitution at least once a year.

What have we next? A Minister of the Crown may hold himself free to disallow what a predecessor in the exercise of his official functions had established. What arrant want of all constitutional knowledge the learned leader of the Opposition displays, if he really penned this passage in a spirit of querulous complaint. Why, sir, what are Ministers of the Crown for, under our admirable system, but to advance with the spirit of the age, and to change in accordance with that spirit what their predecessors had established? Are not ministries changed, and cabinets reconstructed, for this especial end? If what was once established could never be changed—if extravagance could never be retrenched—or a man once in office removed, we should be living under a despotism, and not under a constitutional monarchy. So much for the first recital; the second affirms that "*the Lieutenant Governor has been denuded of all power.*"—Is this true? The hon. member may think so, but suppose these resolutions were to pass to-day, sanctioned by a majority of the Assembly; the hon and learned member would soon become aware of the power which the Lieutenant Governor still wields—and would be made to feel that he had the spirit and independence to exercise it. But, sir, would the hon member wish any Colonial Governor to exercise a power altogether independent of the representatives of the people? If that be the aim, he would fasten upon this people a system despotic and arbitrary, and which would be at once repudiated. No! Sir, the

hon gentleman is incorrect; the Lieutenant Governor does exercise all the power which the Queen's Representative can or ought to possess, under Responsible Government—*more* he does not claim—*less* his present advisers would not ask him to exercise. But, again, we are told that were he "to exercise this independent control, he would disturb the principle of responsibility." That would *not* be the result. Were any Governor to pursue a course of recklessly independent conduct—to disregard the feelings and wishes of the people—the principle of responsibility would not be disturbed, but it would be brought into play to check and controul him. Dismiss his advisers, he might—appeal to the country, he might—and what would be the result? Back, in all probability, would come the very men whom he had dismissed, as back once came a set of men who were unfairly compelled to retire; and the people would wrest the usurped authority from his hands, as promptly as they would sustain a Governor unfairly pressed upon by his cabinet. Sir, a Lieutenant Governor has privileges and powers which should be exercised with moderation and justice; to use them as the engines of oppression would be but to overthrow himself. The recital goes on to say that—"so long as the Lieutenant Governor is to be viewed as the head of the Provincial administration, &c. he must either sink into insignificance or become the instrument of Executive obstruction." What the hon and learned member means by *the head of the administration*, I know not; but let me inform him that the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia is the Queen's Representative, and that my hon and learned friend the Attorney General is the head of the Provincial administration; just as Lord John Russell is the head of the administration in the mother country. Lord Elgin is Governor of Canada, but Mr. Lafontaine is the leader of the administration, and, in this position, he and his colleagues exercise the same powers and privileges as a British administration. But, then, if the Governor be the head of the administration he must, according to the hon gentleman, "either sink into insignificance or become the instrument of Executive ob-