

Charter of responsible government, which established the right of a British Ministry to overcome an unreasonable House of Lords by the creation of new peers—a right that still subsists, and has never been seriously questioned.

The Earl of Durham, who was sent out to Canada by the Melbourne Cabinet just after the Rebellion of 1837, as Governor of British North America, and to report on Canadian conditions, was son-in-law of Earl Grey, the Prime Minister, having married his eldest daughter in 1816. Lord Durham's report was published in 1839. It has been described as the most famous document in colonial history. In his biography of the Earl of Elgin, just published, Professor Wrong writes: 'It is enough to say that the report describes with masterly, if not always accurate, detail, the conditions in Canada, and that, above everything else, Lord Durham recommended the ending of the Colonial Office's dreary record of ineptitude by giving Canada a full measure of self-government.'

After Lord Durham, no name shines with greater brilliancy in the history of Canada and the development of her free institutions than that of the Earl of Elgin, who was made Governor-General by Lord Grey, Colonial Secretary in Lord John Russell's Cabinet that had displaced Peel. Lord Elgin, on November 7th, 1846, married Lady Mary Louisa Lambton, the deceased Earl of Durham's daughter, and therefore grand-daughter of the great Earl Grey, who carried the Reform Bill in 1832. He remained Governor-General during the stormy and eventful period of 1847 to 1854. He vindicated to the fullest extent the principles of responsible government by assenting to the Rebellion Losses Bill, because it represented the view of his advisers. During his administration feudalism in the form of seigniorial tenure was abolished in Quebec. The Clergy Reserves Dispute in Ontario resulted in wiping out state churchism in that province; finally, to the Earl of Elgin almost alone was unquestionably due the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 with the United States, which rescued Canada from the state of ruin caused by the withdrawal of the British preference, and brought about an era of astonishing prosperity and improvement.

I must give one more instance. The Countess of Minto, Your Excellency's sister, was next