

sion, the leaders of the Canadian government, CARTIER and MACDONALD, boldly laid down the most 'dangerous' principles of nationalism. In the most peremptory language, they declared to the Colonial Secretary that "the Government of Canada acting for its Legislature and people cannot, through those feelings of deference which they owe to the Imperial authorities, in any way waive or diminish the right of the people of Canada to decide for themselves both as to the mode and extent to which taxation shall be imposed. The Provincial Ministry are at all times ready to afford explanations in regard to the acts of the Legislature to which they are party; but subject to their duty and allegiance to Her Majesty, their responsibility in all general questions of policy must be to the Provincial Parliament, by whose confidence they administer the affairs of the country; and in the imposition of taxation, it is so plainly necessary that the Administration and the people should be in accord, that the former cannot admit responsibility or require approval beyond that of the local Legislature. *Self-government would be utterly annihilated if the views of the Imperial Government were to be preferred to those of the people of Canada.*" (quoted pp. 48-49).¹

"The Colonists", says Mr. CURTIS, "are now responsible for their own domestic affairs; that is to say, their national executives as well as their legislatures are responsible to them and not to the king" (p. 25). "As every one knows, the king never exerts his authority except upon the advice of ministers, whether those of the United Kingdom, or of the self-governing Dominions" (p. 88).

This principle had been laid down in 1865, as an axiom, by SIR JOHN MACDONALD, when urging in the Legislative Assembly the ratification of the Quebec Resolutions: "With us [British], the Sovereign, or in this country, the representative of the Sovereign, can act only on the advice of his ministers, those ministers being responsible to the people, through Parliament".²

What had brought that evolution in the government of colonies? The sole will of their inhabitants. "It was not, however, for the Imperial Parliament, in which the colonies were not re-

¹ Nearly twenty years later, the *Grits* brought against the Conservatives the never worn-out charge of 'disloyalty', because the National Policy then propounded and soon to be enacted, would 'endanger the British Connexion.' SIR JOHN MACDONALD merely replied, through his main organ: 'So much the worse for British connexion!'

² *Confederation Debates*, p. 33.