

By a communication bearing date 1st March, the Lieutenant-Governor dismissed his Cabinet, and the next day called upon Mr. Joly to form a new Ministry. The Constitutional right of the Hon. Mr. Letellier de St. Just to adopt such a course, though questioned at first, seems now to be universally conceded. Mr. Todd, universally acknowledged to be the best authority in the Dominion on an abstract question of Constitutional law, seems to have no doubt on the point, and the same view had been taken both by Sir A. T. Galt and Sir Francis Hincks, neither of them men likely to approve of any unjustifiable extension of prerogative power. Nothing can be more distinct than the opinion given by Mr. Todd, as will be seen by the following extracts: "The right of a Sovereign to dismiss his Ministers is unquestionable; but that right should be exercised solely in the interests of the State, and on grounds which can be justified to Parliament," (p. 7.) "In his Commission of appointment, the Governor-General is expressly empowered 'to exercise, from time to time, as you may judge necessary, all powers lawfully belonging to Us, in respect of assembling or proroguing, the Senate or House of Commons of our said Dominion, and of dissolving the said House of Commons: and We do hereby give the like authority to the several Lieutenant-Governors for the time being, of the Provinces in Our said Dominion, with respect to the Legislative Councils, or the Legislative or General Assemblies of those Provinces respectively.'" (p.p. 12-13.) The power of the Lieutenant-Governor to dissolve is therefore beyond question; or to use the words of Sir Francis Hinks, "We are quite clear as to the entire Constitutionality of the course of the Lieutenant-Governor." Having ascertained that the Lieutenant-Governor had the right to exercise the prerogative and dismiss the Ministers, the next question would seem to be, under what circumstances would he be justified in doing so, and did the circumstances of this particular case sanction such a proceeding on his part? For the first part of this question, an answer is to be found in Todd. He declares it to be a well-established principle, "That the Governor," (and we have seen it applies equally to the Lieutenant-Governor), is personally responsible to the Imperial Government for his exercise of the prerogative right of dissolving Parliament; and he is bound to have regard to the general condition and welfare of the Country, and not merely to the advice of his Ministers, in granting or refusing a dissolution. And should he deem it advisable to insist upon the