

to be shamefully defeated. It is believed, my Lord, that one of your predecessors either Lord Stanley or Mr. Gladstone insisted that the question should be made an open one, in order to enable members of the Tory party to come into the administration. This is the general belief, but as the despatches of the Minister are carefully concealed from the Canadian public there is no certainty on the subject.

I shall not fatigue your Lordship by citing other instances in which the people of Canada were deceived at the last election. Lord Metcalfe had an apparent triumph. His Ministry elected their candidate for Speakership by a majority of three. Had all the members been present that majority, it is believed, would have been only one. But Government influence was at work. One member returned on the liberal interest was almost immediately bought off with office. It is a fact, my Lord, that he never took his seat in the House. The people were so disgusted with his conduct that his former opponent was elected without difficulty. Several of the returns were contested; one of the most important was that for the city of Montreal. The petition was set aside as informal by a party vote, and the merits never enquired into. The petitioners believe that they were treated with the grossest injustice, and the fact is notorious that the present members for Montreal never could have obtained, and could not now obtain, a majority of the votes of the qualified electors. And yet, my Lord, by this Montreal election, illegally carried, Lord Metcalfe obtained his majority. I shall trouble your Lordship with with one or two more election cases. The return of Mr. Small, a member of the late administration, was petitioned against on the ground of want of qualification. The Government party had a majority on the committee, and not only was Mr. Small, who had proved a sufficient qualification according to English decisions, unsent, but his opponent, with a minority of votes, was declared the sitting member. The return of Mr. Gowan, Grand Master of the Orangemen, was petitioned against, also, on the ground of want of qualification. The House, by a party vote, refused to entertain the petition on account of an alleged error in a point of form. The return of Mr. Riddell, a supporter of the Government, was petitioned against by Mr. Hincks, a member of the late administration. In this case alone, a majority of liberals was struck on the committee. The Government party attempted to pass a resolution that the committee was dissolved at the opening of the second session, but although the whole influence of the administration was brought to bear in its favour, it was lost. Their next attempt was more successful. They opened negotiations with one of the liberal members of the committee, with a view to his appointment to office, and succeeded in inducing him to accept three offices in his own district, and to abandon his seat. The vote of that member decided the contest against Mr. Hincks and in favour of Mr. Riddell, and before the scrutiny had terminated he actually accepted office, and left the committee. I feel assured, my Lord, that you will find some difficulty in crediting these statements. Enquire, I beg of you, into their

truth.
the cou
eerving
at Pict
County
deep i
place.
contest
were d
give u
myself
jority b
Assem
I ha
opposit
matter
under
ment.
speaki
was ne
influen
fruitles
(Dr. De
casion
Dr. De
formed
them.
county
Lordsh
would
You
eminer
hind b
ship n
brough
peruse
Lord I
opene
sition
in suc
suppor
and he
accorde
ledge
ment
brough
person
vided
dence
then
arrang