

gravely impugned. We shall see what grounds there are for the imputation either as regards the Ministry, or the alleged complicity between them and their master.

The Governor requests that Mr. Brown's acceptance of office should be "*in writing*, in order that he may be at once "in a position to confer with him as one of his responsible "advisers." *At once!* and before he is sworn! and why "*in writing*" to this particular end? It was an unusual course, exhibiting a latent distrust at the outset. When, in the common transactions of life, men of great "acuteness," who distrust one another, are desirous of making mutual overtures, they take the precaution of receiving their reciprocal advances "in writing," in order to prevent either party from receding or backing out of his offers. This may be necessary and allowable between men who desire to arrive at a final settlement of conflicting interests, in order that the less "acute" party may not become the dupe of the other. In cases touching the restitution of stolen property, for instance, the negotiations are usually conducted in the most guarded manner, lest any one of the "high contracting parties" should be entrapped by the other. But in a matter concerning the formation of a Government, when the Queen's representative selects men of known respectability and integrity to share with him the cares of state, and by whose advice he impliedly declares he shall be governed, the same amount of precaution would not seem to be required!!

The Governor addresses himself to Mr. Brown as "the most prominent member of the Opposition." Why this designation of Mr. Brown, *in limine*, in a note to himself as a justification for sending for him? If he was the person most likely to command a majority in the House, the act of the Governor needed no such apparently limited designation. *Cela va sans dire*. If he could not carry the House with him, as the Governor himself afterwards states, the simple act of sending for him, necessarily and obviously, in the opinion of every impartial man, was equivalent to a clear and distinct understanding, on his part, to place the prerogative at the disposal of Mr. Brown and his Cabinet, in furtherance of any