

If the first of these points be assumed as true, it must be asked, what assurance can His Excellency have that a new election under precisely the same laws, held within six or eight months of the last, will differ in its character from that which then took place?

If the facts are as they are stated to be, they might be urged as a reason why a general election should be avoided as long as possible—at any rate until the laws are more stringent, and the precautions against such evils shall have been increased by the wisdom of Parliament. Until this is done, the speedy recurrence of the opportunity to practice such abuses would seem likely to aggravate their character, and confirm the habit of resorting to them.

The second consideration, as to the feeling between *Upper* and *Lower Canada*, and the ultimate danger of such feelings to the Union, is one of a very grave kind. It would furnish to His Excellency the strongest possible motive for a dissolution of Parliament, and for the retention of the present Government at all hazards, if two points only were conclusively established; that is to say if it would be shewn that the measures likely to be adopted by Mr. *Brown* and his colleagues were a specific, and the only specific, for these evils, and that the Members of the present Council were the only men in the country likely to calm the passions, and allay the jealousies so unhappily existing. It may be that both these propositions are true, but unless they are established to His Excellency's complete satisfaction, the mere existence of the mischief is not in itself decisive as to the propriety of resorting to a general election at the present moment.

The certainty, or at any rate the great probability, of the cure by the course proposed, and by that alone, would require to be also proved.

Without this a great present evil would be voluntarily incurred for the chance of a remote good.

VI. It would seem to be the duty of His Excellency to exhaust every possible alternative before subjecting the Province for a second time in the same year to the cost, the inconvenience, and the demoralization of such a proceeding. The Governor General is by no means satisfied that every alternative has been thus exhausted, or that it would be impossible for him to secure a ministry who would close the business of this Session, and carry on the administration of the Government during the recess with the confidence of a majority of the Legislative Assembly.

After full and mature deliberation therefore on the arguments submitted to him by word of mouth and in writing, and with every respect for the opinions of the Council, His Excellency declines to dissolve Parliament at the present time.

(Signed.) EDmund HEAD.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Toronto, C. W., August 4, 1858.