

There were no assessment bills, township bills, &c. &c., introduced for Lower Canada, for they were not wanted there for party or electioneering purposes! The country must now see all Mr. Baldwin's late legislative acts, or attempts at legislation, as done for electioneering purposes, and will not therefore consent to give him any credit whatever for them, however good in themselves.

As to justifying his conduct in the Executive, no man with any respect for himself or for Responsible Government, could do so.

If I have not satisfied the *Banner*, I feel sure that I have satisfied the public, on the subject of what you term "the singular change which has taken place in my sentiments;" but as you are a stranger in the province, I may, for your information, mention the additional fact, that the loyal men who will henceforward probably be designated "Conservative Liberals," or "Moderates," would never have trusted Mr. Baldwin, except from the circumstance of their being encouraged to do so by his having, at same time, enjoyed the confidence of the head of the Government—the custodian of the prerogatives of the crown, and the rights not of a party, but of the whole population. I do not say they would not trust any politician, because he had forfeited the confidence of the Governor for the time being.

I merely mention the fact, that the public opinion of Mr. Baldwin's career would have prevented his being trusted apart from such guarantee, even as a means of getting Responsible Government, and much less after the popular principle is allowed by all, for Mr. Baldwin's pressure from without or party proper was always feared as anti-British.

The high opinion we entertained, as I have said, of Mr. Baldwin's personal intentions, and elevation above all motives to political vice, led us to think that the risk, we ran in co-operating with his party while he was at the head of it, and while he retained the confidence of the Head of the Government, was a less risk than to allow his party another plausible cause of rebellion, by our giving either a passive or active support (as when we opposed Mr. Baldwin's friends in Sir F. B. Head's time) to the high church faction, who might again use their power in denying equal rights, civil and religious, to all classes of the community.

I do not think that we are wrong now, in regarding Mr. Baldwin, simply as a party man, and attributing to him the disadvantages which attach to the very equivocal character of his party and the responsibility of its every act; but I think it may fairly be questioned, whether formerly we did not go too far in trusting such a party, MERELY on account of Mr. Baldwin's personal or individual virtues.

Was any fear then of our being taunted with inconsistency to prevent us, in these circumstances, from separating ourselves in the public mind from Mr. Baldwin? We surely had cause enough for doing so in his betrayal, of Responsibility to the people of the Colony, in the Executive, and thus creating the most baneful precedent, even if any doubt did exist as to his misrepresentations of His Excellency's views on this most vital subject.

Following the *Banner's* usual habit, you speak in your letter most boldly and unadvisedly on a variety of provincial topics on which you as a stranger cannot possibly be informed.