

could be no encroachment upon their constitution, and that it was as sacred as life itself. But it was left to Sir Charles Metcalfe to violate and finally to annul it and he has declared that it is a fiction and that it is more fit that he should rule independently, than that we should have any voice in the administration of his government.

The sincerity of his declarations have been exemplified by his practice. For the last eight months he has conducted his administration *without responsible advisers*, has set public opinion at defiance, and still asserts his determination so still to rule over us. He refuses either to meet our Representatives or to dissolve the House. In fact he treats the people of Canada with the most perfect indifference, and their wishes and feelings with the utmost contempt.

This is the position in which we now find ourselves. One means, however, still remains open to us. In the ordinary course of things the people will be called upon to choose new Representatives. Upon the issue of the next elections depend all our future hopes. If the majority of the next Parliament is composed of men who will stand by the people and who will not sacrifice our liberties to their own interests, we may safely look forward to a happy termination of our difficulties. But should it be otherwise we may then bid adieu to Responsible Government.

It is therefore with a view to this that we specially invite your most serious consideration. It is with the hope that whilst in the midst of our trials you were not unmindful of our treatment, so in the hour of our greatest need you will not have deserted your Country, but that you will be found true to your trust, exercising your elective franchise on the side of civil and religious liberty.

The occasion will be a solemn and an important one. It is looked forward to

with anxiety not only by ourselves but likewise by our kindred and our friends in other and far distant lands, where liberty and freedom flourish, and where that Constitution of which we have been deprived, and for which we are now contending, is the happy lot of the poorest and the humblest.

We intreat you therefore not to lose sight of its importance. Our choice of a Representative must be such as is suited to the times. He must be a man of unwavering principle and in whom we have unlimited confidence: He must have passed through the ordeal of political trial and shown himself worthy of our choice. In proportion as he has always been found upon the side of the people—in proportion to his firmness and political consistency and sincerity, so and so let us judge of him.

In conclusion we would respectfully beg leave to caution the Electors against imposition. We do not wish to be considered over officious, nor do we desire or intend to dictate to others the course which they ought to pursue. We feel strongly our situation and our responsibilities and our duties, and we therefore believe that a friendly hint of this kind will be received in the spirit in which it is offered.

We know that it is usual in electioneering times, for parties to profess sentiments the most opposite to their real principles, and we regret to be obliged to acknowledge that this system of deception has too often succeeded. We trust however that experience has taught us a useful lesson in this respect, *and that hereafter we will see the necessity of discarding all doubtful characters and of relying upon men of well tried principles.*

In times like these, it especially behoves every one to look well to the men who are striving for their suffrages, and to see that our choice of a representative is such as to be beyond all suspicion.