

than this in Lord John Russell's despatch?— If a public officer oppose the head of the Government, whether his opposition be avowed or latent, he must immediately resign his office, or be suspended from it. Such was the rule in the days of Sir F. B. Head; and therefore those who censure the Governor General, as if he had brought a new rule to bear on public officers, are either deplorably ignorant of the facts of the case, or else they misrepresent them. As to the propriety of such a rule, we shall not insult the understanding of our readers by saying a word in proof of it. If any man doubt it, we shall merely ask him if he would keep a servant who would not do his work!

We may here notice a blunder committed by the Duke of Wellington, in the debate in the House of Lords on the Bill for re-uniting the Canadas. His Grace mentioned this despatch of Lord John Russell, on the tenure of offices, and ascribed to it most of the agitation in Upper Canada on responsible government. The Duke mentioned in particular the County of Glengarry, from which, he said, two addresses had been sent to the Governor General, in the first of which no desire was expressed for responsible government; but after the despatch had been published another address was sent, in which this demand was made. There is in this statement a great mistake. The address from Glengarry was presented to the Governor General before the despatch was published, and therefore could not have been occasioned by it. The despatch was published at Toronto on the 5th December, 1839, and the address from Glengarry, together with several others from other places, and the Governor General's replies to them all, was published in the Toronto papers of the day previous.

Another charge against His Excellency's Administration is taken from his not publishing the despatch on responsible Government. It is said that this despatch was suppressed in order to secure the support of the Reformers. A writer in *Blackwood's Magazine* retails this charge, and represents the Union Bill as having been carried through the Provincial Legislature by a series of tricks. Now, although this charge comes with an exceedingly ill grace from the party who make it (they being steeped to the dregs in political intrigue), it is proper to observe, that the publication of this despatch made no difference whatever in the conduct of

the Reformers, they still giving their support to His Excellency's Administration as they had done before. They saw, indeed, that there was some difference between Lord John Russell's views and their own, but none of sufficient importance to require them to oppose the Government. They saw in the despatch an excess of caution, a putting forward of extreme cases as if he would convert the exception into the rule, and an express reservation of the right of interference in these cases; but they knew that caution was proper to a Minister of State, and that exceptions would arise to every general rule, and they concluded on the whole to admit the right of interference, guarded and limited as it was, and accompanied with sufficient pledges of the Government being administered in accordance with the people's wishes. Thus the magical effect which the publication of this despatch was to have produced, and which was to have blown His Excellency's Administration into atoms, proves to have been a mere figment of vain imaginations, and the charge falls along with the foundation on which it was built.

Another objection has been raised because His Excellency retains in office several persons who had acted with the Tories. It is said that he ought to have dismissed them all, and filled every office with Reformers. On this we may remark, that every officer who is retained in the public service is retained on the condition of giving his honest support to the Government. This point has been fully established, and from it there will be no wavering. No opposition, either "avowed or latent", will be permitted. This being premised, where would be the justice or the propriety of dismissing men who, whatever their former conduct may have been, now give in their adhesion to the Government? Do the Reform ranks afford such an ample choice of men competent to fill all Government offices, that all others ought to be dismissed to make room for them? We find that even in England, where men of talent and education so much abound, it is no easy matter to fill up Government offices efficiently from one party. But in a colony where there is, such an acknowledged deficiency of suitable men, nothing but necessity could justify such a course; and as that necessity is removed by the parties uniting to support the Government, it is evidently the wiser course to retain every compe-