

than that of dissolving Parliament by the advice of a ministry who possess the confidence of neither branch of the Legislature.

Is it then the duty of His Excellency to dissolve Parliament?

It is not the business of the Governor General to decide whether the action of the two Houses on Monday night was, or was not, in accordance with the usual courtesy of Parliament towards an incoming administration. The two Houses are the judges of the propriety of their own proceedings. His Excellency has to do with the conclusions at which they arrive, provided only that the forms observed are such as to give legal and constitutional force to their votes.

There are many points which require careful consideration with reference to a dissolution at the present time. Among these are the following:—

I. It has been alleged that the present House may be assumed not to represent the people: if such were the case, there was no sufficient reason why, on being in a minority in that House, the late Government should have given place to the present. His Excellency cannot constitutionally adopt this view.

II. An election took place only last winter; this fact is not conclusive against a second election now, but the cost and inconvenience of such a proceeding are so great that they ought not to be incurred a second time without very strong grounds.

III. The business before Parliament is not yet finished. It is perhaps true that very little which is absolutely essential for the country remains to be done. A portion, however, of the estimates, and two bills, at least, of great importance are still before the Legislative Assembly, irrespective of the private business. In addition to this, the resolutions respecting the *Hudson's Bay Territory* have not been considered, and no answer on that subject can therefore be given to the British Government.

IV. The time of year and the state of affairs would make a general election at this moment peculiarly inconvenient and burdensome, inasmuch as the harvest is now going on in a large portion of the country, and the pressure of the late money crisis has not passed away.

V. The following considerations are strongly pressed by His Excellency's present advisers, as reasons why he should authorize an appeal to the people, and thereby retain their services in the Council:—

1. The corruption and bribery alleged to have been practiced at the last election, and the taint which on that account is said to attach to the present Legislative Assembly.

2. The existence of a bitter sectional feeling between *Upper and Lower Canada*, and the ultimate danger to the Union, as at present constituted, which is likely to arise from such feeling.