

against it. This fact has not yet been denied in Canada, and if denied in England the member referred to is ready to maintain its truth. Your Lordship's experience as an English Statesman will enable you to judge whether any Minister would endure the interference of the household of the Sovereign with his policy. Since the opposition to Mr. Fox's India bill I recollect no case in English history in which the influence of the Crown has been openly employed against the Minister through the Sovereign's personal *attachés*. I must not however dwell on this subject. The bill, as I have stated, passed both Houses of Parliament, and the royal assent was expected as a matter of course. Your Lordship will scarcely believe that after all that had taken place, notwithstanding that legislation had been recommended by himself, Lord Metcalfe announced his determination of reserving the bill as one of an unusual character which he could not assent to consistently with his instructions.

Your Lordship will be able to judge from the facts which I have stated whether Lord Metcalfe has carried out the system of Government which prevails in England, and which was recommended by the Earl of Durham. The ex-Ministers maintain that he did not, and hence the "antagonism" between him and them, which led to their resignation; and, my Lord, if his previous conduct had been inconsistent with English practice, most assuredly all must admit that what followed was grossly so. On the resignation of his Ministers, it was expected that some leader of the opposite party would have been charged to form a new administration; such would have been English practice; but instead of that, Lord Metcalfe sent for the parliamentary supporters of the ex-Ministry, one by one, and endeavoured to convince them that he was right and the Ministers wrong, and that he was most anxious to carry out a liberal policy through the instrumentality of other men. To the honour of Canada be it said, that all these attempts failed. The ex-ministers were sustained by their party, with but one or two exceptions. Still no ministry was formed, and the session terminated after a public announcement in the House by a gentleman (Hon. Mr. Viger) who afterwards accepted office, that an administration was about being formed. After a short time two gentlemen were gazetted as members of the Executive Council, but without office. The various departments of the Government were conducted for months by subordinate officers, and during all this time secret negotiations were carried on with individuals without political influence, the object of which was the formation of

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