

done; and then efforts would be made to persuade the country that it was done from a regard for their rights and interests. (Hear, hear.) But the people would not believe it; there was too much intelligence in the country for such a deception to be practised upon its inhabitants. There was no Colony that possessed the power and the advantages which had been entrusted and granted to Upper Canada, for the benefit of those patriotic men who were among its first inhabitants, and who risked their lives, and sacrificed their property, in defence of British principles; yes, many of them had fought and bled for the sake of the privileges which they then enjoyed under merely chartered governments. But the British Government, with that nobleness by which it has ever been distinguished, generously decreed a reward to their loyalty by increasing and greatly extending the privileges they had previously enjoyed, and conferred upon this Province that constitution which it was the object of the Report under consideration to subvert and destroy under the false pretence of supporting it. (Hear, hear.) Yes, the object could not be concealed, and the country will pronounce an equitable sentence on its authors and abettors. The powers entrusted to the Colonial Legislature were never intended to be exercised in the manner now contemplated. It never was supposed that an effort would be made to withhold the necessary supplies for carrying on the Government, because of a difference of opinion having arisen between the Governor and the majority of the House on a constitutional question;—and on a question which the Imperial Government alone could decide. What was the meaning of such a step? It was saying most distinctly, not to the Governor, for he had not power to grant what was demanded of him, but to the King, “Unless this question be decided according to our dictation we will refuse to co-operate with the Government, we will array ourselves against the constitutional powers of the King’s representative, or in other words, against the King himself.” (Hear, hear.) Such was the language spoken by the measure, and although it might be denied, it could not be disproved. A certain system is laid down by our Reformers in the Assembly, and it is designated *responsible government*;—it is asserted that it is the system acknowledged by the Constitution, and the Governor is required to act upon it. He dissents, and states that he cannot view the Constitution in that light, and therefore cannot, in accordance with his oath, adminis-

ter the government on such principles; but he points to the imperial government as the only tribunal competent to award a decision, and to that decision he declares himself willing respectfully to bow. Why then does not the House wait for that decision? If hon. members were willing to abide by it, and to uphold the Constitution as it exists, why stop the Supplies? Such a step is evidently an attempt to intimidate the Government, and it loudly declares to the King, you must either decide that our construction of the constitution is right, or you must make such changes as will accord with the system we have demanded; and if you will not, we will not be governed by you. (Hear, hear.) Suppose the Government should decide that that system cannot be established without destroying all colonial dependency, what then must be done? The answer was obvious:—but there were more than 150,000 men, loyal and true, within this Province, who would never consent to have the authority of the Sovereign trampled under foot; and never, without their concurrence, could the moral power of the Government be put down. (Hear, hear.) If the refusing to vote the Supplies would not open the eyes of the people, they would deserve to be slaves; not the slaves of the British Monarch, for such a relation could not exist within the boundaries of his Empire,—[hear, hear.]—but the slaves of the present majority of the House of Assembly, whose eager grasping after uncontrolled power sufficiently proved how utterly disqualified they were for possessing it. [Hear, hear.] He was but an humble individual, and stood in a minority in that House; but, of that minority he was proud on the present occasion,—and he felt assured that the cause he and his estimable friends were now advocating would be found to be the cause of the people, and that he was expressing the views of those who constituted the worth, and the intelligence, and the patriotism of the country. Whatever might be the result of that evening’s discussion, and he had no expectation but that the Report would be adopted, it would afford him unmixed satisfaction to the latest period of his life, that he, and his respected friends around him, had lifted up their voices, and recorded their votes against a measure so fraught with most disastrous consequences to the Province, and so directly at variance with every principle which ought to find a lodgment in a Briton’s heart. [The hon. and learned gentleman resumed his seat amidst loud cheers from the crowded galleries, and the space below the bar.