

all English statesmen to fall when discussing the affairs of a colony. He said that, for his part, he was ready to accept the principles enunciated by those distinguished statesmen, as substantially identical with his own. He saw no difference between them and those put forth by Lord John Russell, the then leader of the opposition, or those contended for by himself and his late colleagues on the very occasion which gave rise to the debate to which he referred (cheers). And so deep was his conviction that there was in truth no practical difference between them, that he felt a moral certainty that, had any one of the really great statesmen to whom he referred been in the place of the late Governor General on the occasion alluded to, no such difficulty as that which had thrown this country into the turmoil and excitement of 1843-4 could ever have had existence. (Cheers.) But viewing our interest in English politics in this light, he yet could not help looking upon it as a circumstance full of promise, that the Imperial Councils should at the present time be presided over by the statesman who, as Colonial Secretary, had given the Imperial imprimatur to the doctrine of Lord Durham's Report, and the Colonial Department directed by one so nearly connected with the great statesman to whom England and her Colonies were both so much indebted for that invaluable State document (cheers); more particularly when we see the latter nobleman assisted by the distinguished chief secretary of his deceased relative, and by another gentleman whose political course had been marked by adherence to the same great general principles. These surely were legitimate grounds for congratulation, and such as might justly entitle us to rejoice in the assurance that, in such hands, our rights would ever be held sacred, as well from a love for the principles upon which these rights are founded, as from a pious regard to the sacred memory of the departed.

But while we might well feel encouraged by the circumstances to which he had alluded as connected with the progress of events in the Parent State, it must never be forgotten that it was, after all, upon their own energies that they must in the main depend. It was the state of parties and the position of affairs nearer home that therefore more immediately called for their consideration and attention. And when they looked around them for that purpose, they would find still more reason to look forward to the future with satisfaction and confidence—and in saying this, he did not refer to the dissensions in the camp of their opponents, which, to any other than such a party as theirs, might prove a formidable difficulty in the way of the present Provincial Administration. It was to one of an entirely different character and complexion—one which, as it is based on the removal of misconception and the spread of sound principles, is a far better as it is a far firmer foundation upon which to rest our anticipations for the future.

It was a remarkable fact, that looking back at the history, of our past struggles it would be found that every temporary defeat, which as a party we had suffered, had after its immediate consequences had passed, tended materially to spread wider and wider the principles which we held, and add substantial strength to us as a party devoted to the support of those principles and the successful conduct of the Government of the country upon them. (Cheers.) And the same, if he did not greatly mistake, would prove to be the result of the electoral defeat of 1844. (Renewed Cheers.) To go

no farther back than the struggle of 1836—they all recollected the loud and solemn denunciations which proceeded from the vice-regal throne against them and their principles in that eventful year. By the highest authority in the country our principles were declared to be republican—and our objects revolutionary—and the name and office of the Representative of Majesty prostituted to the vile purposes of political detraction and party triumph. (Cheers.) And yet three years had not elapsed before Lord Durham's Report had given the high sanction of one of the proudest of the proud aristocracy of the Parent State to the very doctrines which had been thus denounced. (Cheers.) Ay, and hundreds, nay thousands who had been led astray by the bold and confident assertions which had been the great staple upon which our opponents had traded in 1836, saw the error into which they had been led, and became the warm and consistent supporters of the cause which they had a year or two before lent the aid of all their energies to overthrow. (Cheers.) He had said the consistent supporters of that great cause, because at the very time they were fighting against us they were in fact in principle with us. They really loved British principles and British practice, and it was against such that they wished to raise their voices. But they had been told from a quarter to which they looked with respect, and from the station which he occupied to which they were entitled to look with respect, that such were our principles and such our objects. Many of them had but recently arrived amongst us from the parent state desiring to obtain a home for themselves and their children after them, surrounded by all the blessings of British Institutions, consecrated by so many hallowed recollections of their native country. And thus their very devotion to their principles was craftily made a means of deluding them into the support of the bitterest opponents of those very principles. (Cheers.) Was he not right then in calling their disentangling themselves from the political connection which they had formed at the moment of misconception and alarm as a *consistent course*?—To him it appeared that it would be at once unjust and ungenerous to designate it by any other epithet. (Cheers.) He need not draw the parallel between the contest of 1836, and its results in the point of view to which he had referred, and that of 1844; this similarity he felt convinced was already too strongly stamped on the mind of all to require illustration. And he would ask was it possible but that time and observation had been gradually and surely developing similar results from the denunciations and misconceptions of '44? He felt assured that they were. (Cheers.) And not only so, but though defeated as a party in the electoral contest, the very principles for which that contest had been braved, had to be taken up and publicly acted upon by the very men who had stolen into power by the denunciation of it. (Cheers.) It was true we could not draw aside the veil by which the internal working of the machinery of government was conducted. But from the glimpse with which they had been favored of what had taken place under the present Administration with respect to the Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant Generalship of Militia, he would boldly ask whether any man could doubt that the constitutional obligation of consultation with his Responsible Advisers was felt in all its stringency by the present Representative of the Sovereign? (Cheers.) Certainly to the full, as much as was ever done by his predecessor. And he would add, felt in a manner too, which he (Mr. Baldwin) should think was, to say the very least of it, not