

## APPENDIX G. G.—(See Journal, Page 222.)

SIR GEORGE ARTHUR, K. C. H. *Lieutenant Governor.*

was independent of the people, than since the British Constitution has been, by the necessities of the Crown, moulded into its present form.

This latter responsibility the Colonists have: it is now proposed to bestow on them the former.

No one can be blind to the fact, that it is amongst those who advocate the doctrine, that Colonies are useless and burdensome, that responsibility of the government to the people finds its warmest supporters. Lord Durham holds a contrary opinion, and yet he advocates popular government!

That the Colonial possessions of England are of immense importance, and essential to the continuance of her greatness and prosperity, few, we believe, are prepared to deny. In support of that opinion, your Committee will, however, quote a favourite expression of the Earl of Durham, after his Lordship had seen the Canadian possessions of the Crown, and become sensible of their value—"England, if she lose her North American Colonies, must sink into a second-rate power."

According to the present system, the Governor of a Colony exercises most of the Royal functions, under the general direction of the Ministers of the Crown; he is strictly accountable for his conduct, and for the use he makes of the Royal authority; he recommends for office persons in the Colony, or appoints those selected by the Minister; and he endeavours to conduct his Government according to the policy of the Imperial Cabinet, with a view to the present prosperity and future greatness of a country in which England has a deep interest; and above all things, with the intention of preserving, against all opposition, the unity of the Empire.

To enable him to fulfil these great duties, it is obviously his interest, and that of his advisers, to keep on his side the popular voice of the Colony, and to avoid giving occasion to discontent—redressing real, and dissipating, by temperate discussion, all imaginary grievances.

According to the system proposed by the Earl of Durham, the advisers of the Lieutenant Governor would not be Officers who, in accordance with the policy of the Home Government, endeavour to aid the Lieutenant-Governor in conciliating the affections of the people, but they must be the creatures of the prevailing faction or party in the Assembly—advising the Governor altogether with the view to the wishes of the House for the moment, regardless of the opinions of the Supreme Parliament, or those of the Imperial Cabinet—and having (though nominally subordinate) the power of forcing all their measures upon the Governor.

The Colonial Governor must, in this case, be left without discretion or responsibility, and follow whatever changes may occur; in his Colony he could take no directions from the Minister of the Crown, nor, indeed, communicate with the Supreme Government, unless in the terms dictated by his responsible advisers, to whose directions he must submit, far more completely than the Sovereign to the advice of the Cabinet. The real Sovereign and the Supreme Cabinet, are lost sight of and forgotten, in the administration of public affairs in the colony: and thus the responsibility to Parliament, which in England is produced by, and consistent with the powers of supreme legislation, being introduced into a colony where the supremacy in the legislative body does not exist, the weaker body, in fact, is, by a political fiction, made the stronger—the dependency of the colony is at an end—and while the Sovereign no longer possesses a confidential servant in the colony, the Ministers of the Crown, who are responsible for the preservation of colonial connection, lose all authority to fulfil the duties of their Office.

Either this must be the course pursued by a Governor, with responsible advisers, or he must think for himself, independently of those advisers: and, as a matter of course, throw himself for information and advice, upon irregular and unknown sources. In such an event, the responsible advisers resign—they have, perhaps, a majority in the Provincial Parliament; but they may, notwithstanding, be very wrong. Then comes a dissolution of the Provincial Parliament, and perhaps an expression of public opinion, by a bare majority, against the Government—and probably, inimical to the interests of the Empire. Who, then, is to yield!—The Government must, in fact, retire from the contest—whether right or wrong—or carry on public affairs without any advisers or public officers.