

in the Colony respecting local affairs, should be administered *as in England* with the advice of ministers, who should hold themselves responsible for the acts of Government, and who should not shelter themselves from a responsibility for such acts, while they chose to remain public servants, under the plea of ignorance, or of direction or command from any quarter.

The people of Canada never sought in this system of Government the subserviency of the Representative of their Sovereign. On the contrary, they looked to whomsoever might be entrusted with the exercise of the Royal Prerogative in this Colony, for a careful and wise administration of their affairs: for exposure of corruption if it should be found to exist: and for resistance of unwise policy, if such should be attempted: they desired to place no blind confidence in any men, nor would they sustain any in wrong. And they knew that a Governor of this Colony could never in vain call upon them to consider with severe justice the counsel of his constitutional advisers.

It was with great and almost universal joy that the people of Canada hailed the Resolutions moved and passed in the Legislative Assembly in September 1841. They looked upon these Resolutions, acquiesced in by Her Majesty's Government, as confirming to them and to their posterity forever, under the guarantee of the Empire, the great principle of Responsible Government.

The people of Canada saw with the greatest satisfaction this principle carried out under the administration of the late lamented Sir Charles Bagot, and consented to by all parties in the Colony, who looked forward thenceforth to fair and legitimate Constitutional Government, conducted with the advice of known and Responsible Ministers, whose continuance in office would depend upon the maintenance of popular confidence, which would be the result of the success of their measures of Government, and would be withdrawn if these measures were wanting in honesty and discretion.

The people of Canada saw with alarm and regret the resignation of the late Executive Councillors, forced upon them by a declaration on the part of Her Majesty's Representative of an 'antagonism' between him and them, on the very principle upon which they took office, and for the assertion of which the Colonists had so long struggled. They saw with alarm and regret that the Head of the Government asserted his right to act without the advice of his Council, or contrary to their advice, without involving the necessity of their retirement; and that the assertion on their part