

a Council secure in the affections of the House. His Councillors are responsible to him, but he takes them because they possess your confidence, and he will dismiss them when they have lost it. This involves their responsibility to you. We admit our responsibility to the Governor, we admit the Governor's right to act and appoint, but we confess our obligation to defend his acts and appointments, and your right to obstruct and embarrass us in carrying on the Government when these are not wise and satisfactory; the exercise of the prerogative must be firm and independent, in every act of the Government general and local, but its exercise is to be defended here by us; and the necessity there is for your possessing the confidence of the people, the Council yours—the Government theirs—includes all the strength and yet responsibility, which are desirable under a Representative Monarchy.

“And Whereas, His Excellency Sir Charles Metcalfe has thus explained, in an answer to an address from Gore in Canada, his views of Colonial Government—

“With reference to your views of Responsible Government, I cannot tell you how far I concur in them without knowing your meaning, which is not distinctly stated.

“If you mean that the Governor is to have no exercise of his own judgment in the administration of the Government, and is to be a mere tool in the hands of the Council, then I totally disagree with you. That is a condition to which I can never submit, and which Her Majesty's Government, in my opinion, never can sanction.

“If you mean that every word and deed of the Governor is to be previously submitted for the advice of the Council, then you propose what besides being unnecessary and useless, is utterly impossible, consistently with the due dispatch of business.

“If you mean that the patronage of the Crown is to be surrendered for exclusive party purposes to the Council, instead of being distributed to reward merit, to meet just claims, and to promote the efficiency of the public services, then we are again at issue—such a surrender of the prerogative of the Crown is, in my opinion, incompatible with the existence of a British Colony.

“If you mean that the Governor is an irresponsible officer, who can without responsibility, adopt the advice of the Council, then you are, I conceive entirely in error. The undisputed functions of the Governor are such that he is not only one of the hardest worked servants of the colony, but also has more responsibilities than any other officer in it. He is responsible to the Crown and Parliament and to the people of the Mother Country, for every act that he performs, or suffers to be done, whether it originate with himself or is adopted on the advice of others. He could not divest himself of that responsibility by pleading the advice of the Council. He is also virtually responsible to the people of this Colony, and practically more so than ever to the Mother Country, every day proves it, and no Resolution can make it otherwise.

“But if instead of meaning any of the above stated impossibilities, you mean that the Government should be administered according to the well-understood wishes and interests of the people; that the Resolution of September 1841, should be faithfully adhered to; that it should be competent