

*manner waive or diminish the right of the people of Canada to decide for themselves both as to the mode and extent to which taxation shall be imposed.* The provincial ministry are at all times ready to afford explanations in regard to the acts of the legislature to which they are a party, but, subject to their duty and allegiance to Her Majesty, their responsibility in all general questions of policy must be to the provincial parliament, by whose confidence they administer the affairs of the country. And in the imposition of taxation it is so plainly necessary that the administration and the people should be in accord that the former cannot admit responsibility or require approval beyond that of the local legislature. Self-government would be utterly annihilated if the views of the imperial government were to be preferred to those of the people of Canada. *It is therefore the duty of the present government distinctly to affirm the right of the Canadian legislature to adjust the taxation of the people in the way they deem best, even if it should unfortunately happen to meet the disapproval of the imperial ministry.* Her Majesty cannot be advised to disallow such acts, unless her advisers are prepared to assume the administration of the affairs of the colony irrespective of the views of its inhabitants.

“ ‘The provincial government believes that his grace must share their own convictions on this important subject, but *as serious evil would have resulted had his grace taken a different course, it is wiser to prevent future complication by distinctly stating the position that must be maintained by every Canadian administration.*’ (Applause.)

“These, Mr. Chairman, are the views the government felt it their duty to lay before the imperial authorities, (Hear!) and I am gratified to be able to add that when these papers are read by members of the house, it will be found that *on the point on which they objected to the tariff they have been obliged to admit that we were in the right, and that any assumed interference with our rights and privileges is not for one moment to be entertained.*” (Hear! hear!)

No far as can be ascertained, no further correspondence between the government of Great Britain and the government of Canada as to the restrictive and adverse policy of the Province has been made public; but some other questions having arisen on another subject, the governor general of Canada, at the opening of the Canadian parliament in March, 1861, declared it was expedient for that assembly to “define by statutory enactments of your own the nature and extent of the laws and customs of parliament, as they shall exist in Canada.”

The intentions expressed in the words of the “reciprocity treaty” made by the United States with Great Britain in 1854, were “to regulate the commerce and navigation between Her Majesty’s possessions in North America and the United States in such manner as to render the same reciprocally beneficial and satisfactory.” The financial minister of Canada carried into practical effect a policy avowedly restrictive and adverse to the interests of the United States. To these efforts the govern-