

Communica-
tion on resigna-
tion of Execu-
tive Council.

Council into a course of policy which he did not approve of, and the Council were made liable to the accusation of assuming the tone and position of Responsible Advisers of the Government, without, in fact, asserting the right of being consulted thereupon.

While His Excellency disavowed any intention of altering the course of administration of public affairs which he found on his arrival in *Canada*, he did not disguise his opinion that these affairs would be more satisfactorily managed by and through the Governor himself, without any necessity of concord amongst the Members of the Executive Council, or obligation on their part to defend, or support in Parliament the Acts of the Governor. To this opinion of His Excellency, as one of theory, the Members of the Executive Council might not have objected; but when, on Saturday last, they discovered that it was the real ground of all their differences with His Excellency, and of the want of confidence and cordiality between His Excellency and the Council since his arrival, they felt it impossible to continue to serve Her Majesty as Executive Councillors for the affairs of this Province, consistently with their duty to Her Majesty, or to His Excellency, or with their public and often repeated pledges in the Provincial Parliament, if His Excellency should see fit to act upon his opinion of their functions and responsibilities.

Daly's Hotel,
27th November, 1843. }

The Governor General observes with regret, in the explanation which the Gentlemen who have resigned their Seats in the Executive Council, propose to offer in their places in Parliament, a total omission of the circumstances which he regards as forming the real grounds of their resignation; and as this omission may have proceeded from their not considering themselves at liberty to disclose those circumstances, it becomes necessary that he should state them.

On Friday, Mr. *Lafontaine* and Mr. *Baldwin* came to the Government House, and after some other matters of business, and some preliminary remarks as to the cause of their proceeding, demanded of the Governor General that he should agree to make no appointment, and no offer of an appointment, without previously taking the advice of the Council; that the lists of Candidates should, in every instance, be laid before the Council; that they should recommend any others at discretion, and that the Governor General, in deciding after taking their advice, should not make any appointment prejudicial to their influence. In other words, that the patronage of the Crown should be surrendered to the Council for the purchase of Parliamentary support; for, if the demand did not mean that, it meant nothing, as it cannot be imagined that the mere form of taking advice without regarding it was the process contemplated.

The Governor General replied, that he would not make any such stipulation, and could not degrade the character of his office, nor violate his duty, by such a surrender of the Prerogative of the Crown.

He appealed to the number of appointments made by him on the recommendation of the Council, or the members of it in their departmental capacity, and to instances in which he had abstained from conferring appointments on their opponents, as furnishing proofs of the great consideration which he had evinced towards the Council, in the distribution of the Patronage of the Crown.

He at the same time objected, as he always had done, to the exclusive distribution of Patronage with party views, and maintained the principle that Office ought, in every instance, to be given to the man best qualified to render efficient service to the

State; and where there was no such pre-eminence, he asserted his right to exercise his discretion.

He understood from Messrs. *Lafontaine* and *Baldwin*, that their continuance in office depended on his final decision with regard to their demand; and it was agreed that at the Council to be assembled the next day, that subject should be fully discussed.

He accordingly met the Council on Saturday, convinced that they would resign, as he could not recede from the resolution which he had formed, and same subject became the principal topic of discussion.

Three or more distinct propositions were made to him, over and over again, sometimes in different terms, but always aiming at the same purpose, which, in his opinion, if accomplished, would have been a virtual surrender into the hands of the Council of the Prerogative of the Crown; and on his uniformly replying to those propositions in the negative, his refusal was each time followed by "then we must resign," or words to that purport from one or more of the Council.

After the discussion of this question at so much length, being, as he has hitherto conceived, the one on which the resignation of the Council rested, he is astonished at finding that it is now ascribed to an alleged difference of opinion on the theory of Responsible Government.

In the course of the conversations which, both on Friday and Saturday, followed the explicit demand made by the Council regarding the Patronage of the Crown, that demand being based on the construction put by some of the Gentlemen on the meaning of Responsible Government, different opinions were elicited on the abstract theory of that still undefined question, as applicable to a Colony,—a subject on which considerable difference of opinion is known everywhere to prevail; but the Governor General during those conversations protested against its being supposed, that he is practically adverse to the working of the system of Responsible Government, which has been here established, which he has hitherto pursued without deviation, and to which it is fully his intention to adhere.

The Governor General subscribes entirely to the Resolution of the Legislative Assembly of the 3rd September, 1841, and considers any other system of Government but that which recognises Responsibility to the People and to the Representative Assembly, as impracticable in this Province.

No man is more satisfied, that all Government exists solely for the benefit of the people; and he appeals confidently to his uniform conduct here and elsewhere in support of this assertion.

If, indeed, by Responsible Government the Gentlemen of the late Council, mean that the Council is to be Supreme, and the Authority of the Governor a Nullity, then he cannot agree with them, and must declare his dissent from that perversion of the acknowledged principle.

But if they mean that Responsible Government, as established in this Colony, is to be worked out with an earnest desire to ensure success, he must then express his surprise at their arriving at conclusions, which he does not consider to be justified by any part of his conduct, and which he conceives his repeated declarations ought to have prevented.

Allusion is made in the proposed explanation of the Gentlemen of the late Council, to the Governor General's having determined to reserve for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, one of the Bills passed by the two Legislative Houses. That is the Secret Societies Bill. If there is any part of the functions of the Governor in which he is more than any other bound to exercise an independent judgment, it must be in giving the Royal Assent to Acts of Parliament. With regard to this duty he has special instructions from Her Majesty to re-

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