character was impugned he himself insisted on investigation. The desire of having a Canadian instead of an Englishman to command our forces had been manifested with extreme intensity in certain quarters, and it has been allowed, we fear, by those who cherish it to influence their judgment on the merits of General Middleton's case. The two questions at least have been blended together by the General's enemies in the press. Of the excessive bitterness with which the conqueror of Riel has been assailed in the House of Commons by the defenders of Riel the motive is only too apparent. Is there to be no end to the dishonour to which that alliance brings the Liberals and their leaders? The man who allowed himself to be seduced into it in the hope of recovering power by the aid of the Rielite vote, and this in face of the recent, public and solemn protest of his own conscience, ought to know that in ruthlessly immolating the character of an old soldier to the vindictive passions of his political associates, he brings another stain and a dark one on his own. If a British soldier of rank is to be tried for his honour it ought to be before some other tribunal than an assembly of politicians bent on their own game.

—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach lays down as an axiom that the dissolution of Parliament is not to be justified on constitutional principles unless Ministers have been defeated in the House of Commons, or unless the House becomes impotent to carry through its business, or unless it is paralysed by the approach of its statutory demise. The London *Times*, which is good authority at all events for political practice, endorses Sir Michael's view. This is what we have ourselves constantly maintained and continue to maintain, Sir Charles Dilke's dictum notwithstanding. Sir Charles's rule that a Parliament after four years continues to sit merely during the pleasure of the Prime Minister is to be found, we submit, in no constitutional writer, nor anywhere but in his own brain. It will at all events not fit Canada, where the term is not the same that