

knew,' it was clear he knew nothing. He said nothing of a change in the constitution of the Council. He said nothing of giving up the revenue to the Assembly—reforms which were the head and front of the popular demands. The consequence was, that the degree of hope—we cannot call it confidence—to which Lord Gosford's professions had given birth, was well nigh destroyed.

Still the good-will of the Members of Assembly towards the Governor was not as yet impaired. The Commission, the Assembly did not, in fact, could not, recognize; but, as Governor, Lord Gosford was treated with all possible respect.

The instructions being thus, notwithstanding the promise of Sir George Grey and the statements of Lord Gosford, withheld from the Colonial Legislature, it became the duty of Mr. Roebuck again to ask for them in his place in the House of Commons. This he did on the 16th of February. Sir George Grey, after acknowledging that 'the House of Assembly had shown they were actuated by the most honest and ardent wish to promote the interests of the colony,' urged upon Mr. Roebuck's consideration that, 'inasmuch as there was now a fair prospect of adjusting the differences between this country and Canada, he thought that, while negotiations were still pending, it would be extremely injudicious, and might lead to great inconvenience if the instructions given to the Commissioners were to be made public.' Hereupon Mr. Roebuck, being 'determined to let the ministry have a complete trial on this matter,' consented to withdraw his motion. At the very moment that Sir George Grey was thus expatiating on the 'great inconvenience,' the 'extreme injudiciousness' of permitting the instructions to be made public, they were in every one's hands in Canada, by means of a diplomatic blunder of Sir Francis Head.

The Legislature of Upper Canada was in session when Sir Francis reached the province in February. Accompanying his first message were extracts, giving nearly all the material part of the instructions to the Commissioners. It appeared that he had been permitted to communicate the substance of the Commissioners' instructions with his own; but not having been long enough in the official ranks to have learned that *substance* in diplomatic language means *shadow*, he committed the irremediable blunder which we have described.

The dislike of Sir George Grey that the instructions should see the light, and his conviction that their publication would produce 'great inconvenience,' would be 'extremely injudicious,' were now fully explained on the face of the instructions themselves. In *substance* they amounted to a refusal of the demands of the Assembly, whilst there was some slight *shadow* of liberality in their