

an interest, or even to arrest attention to such topics, may well look out for failure.

But in the Great Council, on whose wisdom and prudence depends so deeply, the weal or woe of the dependencies of England, there should prevail far other views. A lively sense of their arduous duty and unspeakable responsibility should be felt by each member of the body—the picked men of twenty-seven millions! There should be an earnest desire to become acquainted with the facts, a full knowledge and profound consideration of which can alone fit them, for the conscientious discharge of those high duties, which they have sought the opportunity, and the charge, and honor of performing.

Alas for public virtue! When, in 1849, Lord Lincoln pressed this subject on the House of Commons, shewing from our early colonial history how Virginia, Massachusetts, New England, indeed all our early possessions in North America, had languished so long as their affairs were managed by absentee proprietary bodies, springing up and flourishing only when those Companies were dissolved; shewing, too, that of all the Companies that had ever exercised territorial power, the Hudson's Bay Company was the worst qualified to develop the resources of a country, and had in fact done the least, for it had done nothing towards performing, or even commencing the performance of, the great duty with which it was charged, viz., of enlightening, civilizing, and ameliorating the condition of the numerous tribes, whose destinies are in its hands; shewing its powers of government to be absolute, unfettered by a provision for the liberty of the subject; that it was despotic, secret, irresponsible:—all failed to stir the lazy apathy of the men whom England trusted with the guardianship of her interests and honor—*Her Majesty's faithful Commons were counted out.* But this was not all, for shortly afterwards Lord Grey, being then Colonial Minister, found no difficulty in getting the assent of Parliament to an arrangement, by which the valuable possession of Vancouver's Island was added, with large powers, to the then existing territories of the Company.