

the Estimates of each of these eight Sessions afforded, that they are conspicuously shown to be ignorant of the true principles of public economy by which the administration of the people's affairs should be regulated ; and in a word the whole conduct and course of the Opposition throughout these eight Sessions have established more widely the separation between Conservative and Reform principles. The only aim of the former is to obtain control of the reins of government, and to accomplish this by entrapping the electors with some plausible expedient, and at the present time by their unscrupulous outbid for place ; while Reformers rely upon showing that they have been true to their principles of promoting good government and thus securing the wellbeing of all. They know that this necessarily requires such progressive changes in government as from time to time may be developed ; and it must be always true of Reformers in the very nature of things that they cannot cease going on with such further specific reforms as are hopeful of further public good.

I will now end this eight years' review as I began it, with Lord Dufferin's eloquent description of our Province and its people, as was fitting in a reply to the address of your representatives ; and the good qualities which he ascribes to us of loyalty to the Crown, self-reliance, energy and great industry, and which has enabled us to convert a wilderness in less than a century into groups of rich and well cultivated counties, are mainly attributable to the people of this Province having, during the whole of that period, been imbued with the strongest feelings for constitutional liberty ; and it has only been through constant struggles during the greater part of that period that, on the 1st July, 1867, local self-government, in which genuine liberty can only be found, was secured to us ; and if there is one county more than another of that glorious group described by Lord Dufferin, I may be excused if I point to the County of Oxford and to the characteristics of its electors, as an illustration. I am further convinced that in the future, as well as always from the time it had its first representative in the Assembly of Upper Canada, it will continue to send representatives who will preserve this invaluable possession of Provincial autonomy.

ADAM CROOKS.

Toronto, May 7th, 1879.