

were daily being opened wider and wider to the realities of the situation, and the semi-bondage under which outside intermeddling appeared to hold them. The last ounce which bore too heavily upon a long patient country, at length broke the spell of passive obedience, and led to the rupture between the reformers in the House and the Governor's Council, who were charged, tried, condemned and punished for having allowed his Excellency to act and decide for himself in a grave matter, without protesting on their part or resigning their seats on account of the usurpation. It was assumed that the lesson thus taught, in the defeat of the Government, on account of the conduct of Sir Edmund Head, would keep future Governors within the limits of their power, and future Governments up to their responsibilities. The coming of the new Governor to the Province in the autumn of 1854, after the general elections which took place in June, was hailed with great satisfaction by those who expected to see the principles of responsibility fully and fairly carried out. The reputation of the Hon. Mr. Manners-Sutton, as an eminent member on the reform side of the House of Commons, had preceded him, and high hopes were entertained. Yet, as will be recounted in these pages, he too showed a disposition to act independently of the advice of his Council when a grave question arose between them, and that within a year from the time he was sworn in. And his successor, Hon. Arthur H. Gordon, was also firmset in his own opinions, and as little disposed to be guided entirely, on matters of moment, by his Council. But the disposition of a Governor to act independently was now kept in check by the class of men whom the reform agitation had brought to the front, and were thoroughly imbued with the new theories of government and determined to carry them out in practice. They were not satisfied to have the form without the substance. And, as these pages will shew, whatever Government have come into power since 1854, they have, when occasion called, maintained their constitutional principles by resigning office when the Governor refused to act upon their advice. These remarks, however, apply to what was for-