

government was something new in the science of politics, something never heard of or never practiced before. Certainly Mr. Howe never advanced any such claims. To him the chief recommendation of responsible government was that the idea was essentially British and for everything connected with the British constitution it is well known he had the most profound admiration. Indeed the agitation for responsible government had begun in the upper provinces before it was started in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The provinces of Upper and Lower Canada had been in a state so unsatisfactory both to the inhabitants of the country and the British government that Lord Durham was delegated by the latter, as a special commissioner to inquire into the nature and extent of the abuses and the disorders prevalent and to suggest if possible some remedy. The following is a statement from his report: "It may fairly be said that the natural state of government in all these colonies is that of collision between the executive and the representative body. In all of them the administration of public affairs is habitually confided to those who do not co-operate harmoniously with the popular branch of the legislature; and the government is constantly proposing measures which the majority of the Assembly reject, and refusing to assent to bills which that body has passed. . . . Though occasional collisions between the Crown and the House of Commons have occurred in this country since the establishment of our constitution, they have been rare and transient. . . . When we examine into the system of government in these colonies it would almost seem as if the object of those by whom it was established had been the combining of apparently popular institutions with an utter absence of all efficient control of the people over their rulers. . . . However decidedly the Assembly might condemn the policy of the government, the persons who had advised that policy retained their offices and the power of giving bad advice."

There were not wanting able and keen-sighted men in all the provinces to seize upon the idea of responsible government and work it into shape. What Baldwin and others did in the Canadas, Wilmot and others in New Brunswick, Howe and his co-reformers immediately undertook to do in Nova Scotia. In this province there was abundant opportunity for reformation. The executive and legislative councils combined in one, sat in the upper chamber with closed doors. The old council of twelve included such incongruous materials as the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia and the Chief Justice of the