

you have only to read that Constitution, to see quite clearly the truth of this assertion.

The yeomen and industrious classes of Upper Canada should never allow a single letter to be subtracted from, or added to, this great Charter of their liberties; for if once they permit it to be mutilated, or what may be termed improved, they and their children become instantly liable to find themselves suddenly deprived of their property, and, what is better than all property, of their freedom and independence.

By this Act, you are of course aware that a House of Assembly, a Legislative Council, and a Lieutenant Governor are appointed; but it creates no Executive Council: and if people tell you that it does, read the Act, and you will see the contrary.

Now as regards the House of Assembly, you must know, that being your Representatives, they are of course answerable to you for their conduct; and as regards the Lieutenant Governor, I publicly declare to you, that I am liable to dismissal in case I should neglect your interests.

But, contrary to the practice which has existed in this or any other British colony,—contrary to Colonel Simcoe's practice, or to the practice of any other Lieutenant-Governor who has ever been stationed in this Province,—it has suddenly been demanded of me that the Executive Council are to be responsible for my acts; and, because I have refused, at a moment's warning, to surrender that responsibility which I owe to the people,—whose real interests I will never abandon,—I find that every possible political effort is now making to blind the public mind, and to irritate its most violent passions.

But I calmly ask, what can be the secret reason of all this? Is it usual for one person to insist on bearing another person's blame? or for a body of men to insist on receiving the punishment incurred by an individual superior to them in station? Why therefore should my Council, whose valuable advice, if I were not to be forced upon me, I should be most anxious to receive, be required to demand from me my responsibility? What reason can exist for attempting to deprive me of the only consolation which supports any honest man in an arduous duty,—namely, the reflection that he is ready to atone for every error he commits, and that he is subject to arraignment if he offends? Why should it be declared that responsibility would be more

perfect with my Council than with me? Are they purer from party feelings, or less entangled with their family connections, than I am? How can Gentlemen who have sworn to be dumb, be responsible to the yeomanry and people of this rising Province? How could they possibly undertake to administer this Government, with mouths sealed by an oath which forbids them to disclose, to any one, the valuable advice they may conscientiously impart to me?

The answer to these questions is very short. The political party which demand responsibility for my Council know perfectly well that the power and patronage of the Crown are attached to it; and it is too evident, that if they could but obtain this marrow, the empty bone of contention,—namely, responsibility to the people,—they would soon be too happy to throw away; and from that fatal moment would all those who nobly appreciate liberty, who have property to lose, and who have children to think of, deeply lament, that they had listened to sophistry, had been frightened by clamour, and had deserted the Representative of our Gracious Sovereign to seek British justice from his mute but confidential advisers. This supposition, however, I will not permit to be realized; for never will I surrender the serious responsibility I owe to the people of this Province; and I have that reliance in their honesty—I have lived so intimately with the yeomanry and industrious classes of our revered Mother Country, that I well know, the more I am assailed by faction, the stronger will be their loyal support,—and that if intimidation be continued, it will soon be made to recoil upon those who shall presume to have recourse to it.

The Grievances of this Province must be corrected—impartial justice must be administered: The People have asked for it— their Sovereign has ordained it—I am here to execute his gracious commands—delay will only increase impatience. Those, however, who have long lived upon agitation already, too clearly see their danger; and, with surprising alacrity, they are now taking every possible measure to prevent me from rooting up the tree of abuse, because they have built and feathered their nests in its branches. They asked, however, for the operation, and to amputation they must very shortly submit; for "what's worth doing should always be done well."

I have come here for the avowed purpose