

1849.
Reform party

V. R.
**RESPONSIBLE
GOVERNMENT!!!**



Farmers of Simcoe,

We are sorry to perceive that at this busy season you are called upon to meet, on the 24th inst., "for the purpose of expressing an opinion with regard to the Lower Canadian Rebellion Losses Bill, and the expediency of petitioning her Majesty to disallow the same."

It had been deemed expedient, by the Reform Party here, to form a Committee for the purpose of endeavouring to obtain a full attendance of the Reformers of Simcoe at that meeting, *that the true feeling of the honest men of this District might be known, with regard to the party by whom the Governor-General has been insulted, the Parliament House burnt, and the private property of individuals maliciously broken into and damaged to a considerable extent, besides keeping the city of Montreal, the metropolis of Canada, in a constant turmoil for many days. But second thoughts are best; the preservation of the peace, law and order, are of more consequence to us than the pleasure of outnumbering them, which the next election will show that we can do.*

We have seen a drivelling placard, without signature, addressed to the Conservatives of this District, and containing about as many, or more falsehoods than paragraphs, all of which we deem totally unworthy of notice, except one, viz., that "no Truly loyal man could sign the Address now in circulation in this District." Oh, certainly not! At least, not according to the modern notions of loyalty, of which, pelting the Queen's Representative with rotten eggs seems to be the leading feature. And for what? Why, for sanctioning a bill providing indemnity in Lower Canada for just losses sustained by the inhabitants during the Rebellion, and it defines these just losses to be "such as may have arisen from the total, or partial, unjust, unnecessary, or wanton destruction of the dwellings, buildings, property and effects of the said inhabitants; and to ascertain the amount of such just losses, commissioners are to be appointed, who will be required to take an oath to the effect that they will allow to each claimant, under the said Act, neither more nor less than the sum which he is entitled to claim for compensation, according to the true intent and meaning of this Act; and they are expressly forbidden to pay anything to persons who have been convicted of high treason, or, having been charged with high treason, surrendered themselves and were banished to the Bermudas"; added to which, we have the most solemn declaration of several members of the Government, that no rebel should be paid. And this is the Bill which the enemies of order and the advocates of Annexation would make you believe was intended solely for the purpose of rewarding rebels! But what else could you expect from the selfish Tories but the grossest misrepresentation?

Honest Men of Simcoe.—You do not approve of Lynch Law. You do not wish arson and burglary to take the place of legitimate law and order in this Province. Nevertheless, stay at home, and attend to your legitimate callings;

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LET NO REFORMER BE SEEN AT THAT MEETING.

Let the Tories proclaim their victory, if they will; let them proclaim to the world that they wish to be governed by a faction who have proved themselves utterly unworthy of the confidence of the People of Canada. You can by other means shew the Province that you will not support the despicable clique, who, for a vile, selfish purpose, procured the return of Papineau, the very source of the Rebellion, and voted the payment of Rebellion losses in Lower Canada, which they themselves now hypocritically call a premium for Rebellion. Had the same party passed the same law, and thereby obtained the support of the Lower Canadians, it would not then have been called a rebel-rewarding bill. No, no; it would then have been merely an act of simple justice. But now, being reduced to the last extremity, the fragment left remaining of the old, despised and detested family compact, produce this bill, and stir up their hungry followers into a fury, although it is the same bill, not only in principle, but in detail, which they themselves proposed to pass. Nevertheless, our advice to the lovers of peace, order and industry,—those three great objects of national welfare, is, to stay at home and

SIGN THE ADDRESS TO THE GOV. GENERAL

which accompanies this circular. Show our beloved Queen that you appreciate Responsible Government, and the British Constitution fairly administered; and that you wish to see all in your power to preserve peace, order and regularity, and to secure the love of true liberty, to be found only under the British Constitution.

**Hurrah for RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, &
GOD BLESS OUR GOOD QUEEN!**

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE,

Barrie, May 16, 1849.

Henry B. Hopkins, Chairman.