

LUKE TRAVERS.

A Tale of the Dominion Commencing in Years Back.

(Continued.)

The truth is Ministers were suffering from the effects of vacuous inaction—of a kind which they could not manage, took an opportunity of coming to a small rumpus with the governor, and in retreating back to their party under cover of the dust they had raised, left a vacuum in their ranks. This was not a statesman's course of their own, but such as the Upper Can. in Minto's Bill, as that it might call to "execute law," they had smuggled off the Customs Amendment Law, and they could not then leave King's College, such Mr. Draper and subsequently delivered the House of Commons over to the crown and ears in difficulties, and committed suicide.

After the talking had considerably abated in the House, Mr. Price, on the 1st December, moved a resolution to the effect that the House deeply regretted the retirement of certain members of the general administration on the question of what their right to be consulted by the prerogative of the Crown—appointments to office; and that the ex-ministers' advocacy of this principle entitled them to the confidence of the House. Mr. Wakefield moved three resolutions to the effect that the principles of the British Constitution had been declared by the resolutions of 1841 to exist in this Province; the members of the Executive are responsible to Parliament for the exercise of every royal prerogative within the Province; and that the most injurious effect on us, man to responsibility for acts in which he did not participate, it was indispensable that the royal prerogative be exercised by His Excellency the Governor General with the advice of the Executive Council. Mr. Price's Provincial representative of the Government could not be responsible for or in any way accountable for the exercise of any branch of the Royal prerogative by any Provincial authority whatever and could not therefore constitutionally enter into any plenary engagement, or arrangement with the members of the Executive Council, with any other person, or persons in the Province, respecting the future exercise of the prerogative, and, finally, That the well-known practice of the British Constitution recognized only one chief executive, and that the recognition of the aforesaid principles, namely, the resignation of the members of the Executive Council, whenever on an occasion of sufficient importance to warrant the application of that legitimate check upon the exercise of the prerogative, the Governor General is bound to make a resolution to that effect.

Mr. Price's resolution had been carried, and the House, in a spirit of conciliation, agreed to his motion, and voted to make a resolution to follow their advice in a particular case; but that, after general arrangement by the head of the Government even with the House of Assembly would be a degradation of the royal office and most seriously impair the Constitution, which it is the glory of our 12th Amendment to sustain. Mr. Price moved a resolution to the effect that the document or question had been on the present occasion, come before the House in a shape, in which it could, according to Parliamentary usage or practice, serve as the basis of an address to the Governor General, on the subject of responsible Government. The Honorable Mr. Black moved a resolution that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, humbly representing to His Excellency, that, understanding the claim of the late Executive Council to be soley that of the members of the Executive Council, and being informed of His Excellency's determination upon any such question before it became public by any other channel, without any claim to control His Excellency in the exercise of the undoubted prerogative of the Crown upon the part of the Executive Council, rendering it impossible for any member of the Executive Council to be held responsible for the imprudence of their being carried into execution, owing to their dependence upon the Royal prerogative, and that he had asserted would prove beneficial to the country. He had reserved some time for the consideration of His Excellency's motion, and, after consulting with the members of the Executive Council, and after weighing their advice and hearing their reasons, this House, without failing called upon to express any opinion on the policy of the late Administration, and, as far as possible, to ascertain if there was nothing in the said document which the Executive which may not be held to be the necessary consequence of the principles of responsible Government embodied in the resolutions of the 3rd September, 1841, to which this House firmly adheres.

None of these amendments, sensible and important as they undoubtedly were, could be carried. The Franco-Canadian section of the House, evidently ignorant of Constitutional Government, fell into the old error of simply opposing the Governor, forgetting that any order of things had been established by responsible Government, a mode of conducting affairs, which, before stated they did not and could not comprehend, because they had, as before stated, no correct idea of what Constitutional Government was. It was very difficult to carry Mr. Price's resolution when the following rider carried by a vote of 390 to 390, and, notwithstanding the additional submission to their Graceless Sovereign, and with the utmost respect for the exalted station and high character of His Excellency is most anxious to guard against any misconception which possibly might be placed upon the true nature of His Excellency's address.

Mr. Price's resolution was carried, and although it was not carried by a majority, it was carried by a majority of 100, and therefore, notwithstanding the opposition of the French Canadians, with whom aid it was not difficult to carry Mr. Price's resolution when the following rider carried by a vote of 390 to 390, and, notwithstanding the additional submission to their Graceless Sovereign, and with the utmost respect for the exalted station and high character of His Excellency is most anxious to guard against any misconception which possibly might be placed upon the true nature of His Excellency's address.

(To be Continued.)

ing that his Excellency would be pleased to make the necessary advances, which he would take good next session. The speech was now referred to a close—a message was shortly after delivered, supply received from the Governor General, expressing his anxious desire that the important measures then before Parliament calculated to promote the welfare of the country, should be communicated to the proper consideration of the Legislature, and that no business ought to be transacted in the absence of an unanimous resolution of the Assembly for the advice they might give to His Excellency. It, however, was the design of the ex-minister, who still commanded a majority in the Legislature, rather than the advice, that he submitted. They were exceedingly unwilling that it should appear possible for a Governor General to conduct the business of the country without advisors responsible to Parliament. Timothy and his friends remained at Ottawa, and Metcalfe, then governing without a full Ministry, and at last, the Radical press poured upon the head of the Governor General a perfect torrent of abuse. The Montreal Pilot opened its columns for Mr. Hincks, and with a vehemence that could not be exceeded, the ex-minister seated himself in the editorial chair. Mr. Hincks was decidedly the most able of the ex-ministers. He had not the brilliancy of Aylmer, nor that of Baldwin's flow of wit which the old Soleil General had, but he had the force of Mr. Baldwin, and the reading of Mr. Sullivan. He might have been less obstinate than Mr. Lafontaine, and not so honest as Mr. Baldwin, but his tongue was like a two-edged sword which nothing could resist. His very appearance was wondrous. To look upon him, his eyes glinted fierce to be ready to spring upon his prey; and hating with an intensity that gave sharpness to his onset, he leaped upon whom he was pleased to term an Indian step, so that he would have torn him to pieces. He had the best of all rest in the night. Day after day his excitement became stronger. Some of Library ranged themselves on one side, L. P. S. on the other. In the eyes of the Conservatives Lord Metcalfe was looked upon as a champion, not of the right, but of the wrong, while the supporters of the old régime, who had been well satisfied with the springs, were soon as well satisfied with the water as it was well used in their houses, whilst its low cost did not detract from its popularity.

W. A. T. BORTHWICK,
39 St. Georges Street.

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For cooking purpose.
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For preserving fruits.
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