

that nevertheless the management of our local affairs can only be conducted by him by act with the assistance, control and information of his subordinate officers, the provost. And it is important for the powers between the different branches of the Provincial Parliament that harmony which is essential to the peace, welfare, and good government of the province. The chief adviser of the representative assembly of the colony, constituting a provincial administration under him, ought to be no less powerful or the confidence of the representatives of the people; thus affording a guarantee that the well-informed wishes and interests of the people, whose one glorious Saviour has declared shall be the rule of the provincial government will in all occasions be faithfully represented and advised.

To all which his Excellency has been graciously pleased to assent; and this meeting avows that the principles laid down in the above resolutions are in strict accordance with those of our glorious constitution, and are well calculated to secure equal justice to all classes of His Majesty's loyal subjects in this colony, no matter what their origin or creed.

Which resolution on being put was carried unanimously.

The next resolution was moved by E. Carton, Esq., and seconded by Felix A. Dufresne, Esq.

Resolved—That this meeting most respectfully tenders to his Excellency their cordial thanks for his favour in favor of Responsible government as established in this country, and of his intention fully to adhere to it in the administration of his government; and while they highly laud him for his Excellency that he subserves entirely to the advisory resolutions of the 1st September 1811, and that he considers any other system of government but that which recognises responsible government, and that which secures the rights and interests of the people, and to the steps taken by him as impracticable in this province; they cannot but deeply lament that any difference upon a plan and simple a question as the securing measures that be, whether the separation of the late ministry from his Excellency, should have led to a result manifestly injurious (at least for a while) to the best interests of Canada at a most important crisis.

Colonel Prince next rose to move the 7th resolution which was seconded by Benjamin Lawrie, Esq., and carried.

Resolved—That impressed as this meeting is with a full conviction that "Responsible Government" will prove a blessing to this Province, and that it is a most valuable and strictly constitutional boon compared to any other Governmental System; and while this meeting recognises its duty, regret at the same return of all the members of the Executive Council (one from the Province) to administration, it is nevertheless of opinion that the stern and constitutional advocacy by those members of the great principle of responsible government entitles them to the confidence of the people at large, and that *they as well as the present House of Assembly therefore do possess the entire confidence of this meeting and of the people of this country.*

The resolution having been put by the Secretary in English, and afterwards by the Secretary in French.

Maj. Langlois rose up and addressed the chairman and meeting in a speech of considerable length, which elicited much and unanimous applause. We wish it were in our power to do justice to the gallant Major's speech, the Governor General, whom the speaker said he had the honour of being well known to and of knowing many years ago in India, and he pronounced a high eulogium upon his Excellency's public and private virtues. The gallant Major then commented at great length upon the message of the Governor General to the House of Assembly in reply to Mr. Lafontaine's letter, and also upon the resolutions of September 1811, and especially upon Lord John Russell's famous despatch of 1819, and he concluded by moving the following amendment to Col. F.'s resolution, seconded by Dominique Langlois, Esq.

That all the words after the word "that" be expunged, and that the following be adopted instead:—"Though a large portion of the inhabitants of the county of Essex have, in their different townships, already expressed their feelings upon the noble constitutional stand lately made by His Excellency the Governor General in behalf of not only the vital interests but even existence of Canada as an integral portion of the British Empire at a time when an insidious anti-British Democratic faction were plotting a ruinous separation together as inhabitants of the country at large, it would cordially subscribe and adhere to the legal feelings expressed by our fellow countrymen elsewhere, of unshaken and unchanged devotion to our Gracious Sovereign, and affectionate personal attachment to His Excellency the Governor General, together with unbounded confidence in the wisdom, integrity, and discretion of whatever measures his Excellency may pursue for the good of the country at this eventful period; and that regarding him as the only true responsible minister of the Sovereign, we require no other pledge for the just and faithful discharge of his arduous duties than the noble political creed displayed in his Excellency's late and stirring reply to the address of the inhabitants of London. While "resting all his hopes of success on legal technicalities and sophistry," which we cannot now recall, capably referring to with pride and admiration, in his Excellency's own words as worthy to be engraved in letters of gold, and handed down to outlast posterity as the true magna charta of British Canada; namely—

"It will ever be my earnest endeavour to promote the welfare and happiness of Canada; to do justice to all parties; to make no distinction of race or colour; to make appointments to offices according to merit and character; and the efficiency of the public service; to consult in the interest of the people; to maintain their rights, no less than the prerogative of the Crown unimpaired; regarding the latter as valuable only where it conduces to the benefit of the country, and to carry on the administration of affairs according to the system in which I have found established in the Province to the full extent practicable in the Government of a Colony owing allegiance to our gracious Sovereign, and protected by the power of the British Empire."

Colonel Prince then rose and replied to the gallant Major, and after having fully contrasted in the high eulogium bestowed upon his Excellency by the mover of the amendment, and having controverted the arguments used by him upon the resolutions of 1811; and having passed upon the meeting the more extended measure of responsible government given by these resolutions than that which Lord John's despatch would seem to imply, the Sheriff put the gallant Major's amendment which was unanimously agreed to.

The original resolution was then put in English and afterwards in French, and was carried unanimously amidst loud cheers.

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