

enquired both Mother Grimp and the grave-digger. "Who! fools, go and enquire!" and without saying another word she turned from them and sought her habitation.

The evening after our return from Brentor was warm and sultry; I took a short walk after sunset, but the heat of the atmosphere compelled me to return. Lucy retired early to her room, evidently much depressed, and but little conversation took place between any of us,—a weight seemed to be resting upon the minds of all, which, although we never once alluded to it in our conversation, could not be concealed.

I retired to my room about eleven o'clock, but not to sleep; and after having opened the windows to admit what air I could, I sat down, ruminating upon the events of the last few days.—My room was situated in an angle of the building, and in the adjoining angle Lucy slept. While I sat buried in thought I was suddenly aroused by a whispering, and looking out I saw Lucy standing at her window conversing with a man who stood in the garden underneath. I listened and heard the following discourse:—

"Oh, Tresilian! it is not enough to tell me that you are innocent: I have never believed any thing else, but why can you not tell me the whole? How is it that you have any thing to do with them? and who is it they have dared to name after you and call him 'Lieutenant Tresilian?'"

"Lucy, dear Lucy, I cannot tell you all—a hellish plot is concocting among them, the consummation of which I have sworn to prevent. There is but one person in the secret—do not be jealous, Lucy—I swear to you there is no improper connection in the case—it is the girl Miriam. As to your other question, it appears that they called their Lieutenant after me, with a view doubtless to my destruction. This is the most difficult part of the affair to unravel or counteract, for if any thing should occur by which the band might be broken up or seized, the fact of one of them being known by no other name than Harry Tresilian would be taken as presumptive evidence against me, and I must confess that I have been unable to discover who has thus assumed my name, although I can give a shrewd guess."

"Oh, Tresilian! I must know more. Tell me what the plot is, or how you hope to counteract it, and then I will be contented. But above all take care of yourself, for I fear warrants are already issued against you."

He was about to reply, when I said, "I fear it is already too late, for I perceive the figure of a man approaching, and trying to conceal himself among the trees,—ah! there's another."

"They may take me dead but not alive," he replied, at the same time he rushed down the garden towards a thicket of thorn and hazel which reached from thence to the stream. A shout then arose, and I perceived several figures suddenly start up in different parts of the garden and give chase. Lucy in breathless anxiety leant out of the window, straining her eyes to witness the chase, when the report of a pistol was heard. She exclaimed, "Oh God! they have shot him!" and fainting fell headlong out of the window. I did not hesitate a moment, but sprung out of my own window and caught her in my arms. She was insensible. By this time the other inmates of the family were aroused, and assisted by her father I bore Lucy to her room, where she lay insensible until the next day; but the only injury she sustained was from the shock, we could never discover that she was hurt by her fall.

To return to Tresilian: in a few minutes he was brought back wounded and bleeding, having been shot through the thigh. The policemen bound up his wound, and after having searched the house in vain for Miriam, hoisted him into a light carriage they had left at some distance from the house, but which they had now brought up, and drove off for Tavistock. The next day he was fully committed to the county gaol to stand his trial for highway robbery and murder, Bill Jones having sworn that he was the principal, and that he was assisted by Miriam, the pottery girl.

[END OF THE SIXTH CHAPTER.]

From the Britannia June, 1.
LORD STANLEY'S SPEECH ON CANADA.

Lord Stanley was disappointed by Mr. Roebuck not following up his speech with a distinct motion, on which the sense of the House could be taken. Sir Charles Metcalfe had been absolutely called on by his Executive Council to bind himself, in writing, to submit to them the whole patronage of the Crown; and this demand, never before made by a constitutional minister, had been properly resisted. The theory of the constitution required that, while the Minister advising the Crown in making appointments should consult the feelings and the convenience of the Sovereign, the Crown should also defer to those higher public considerations by which a responsible Minister may be actuated; and in this country, while the Sovereign was surrounded by all the hereditary associations of the peerage and of property, the Minister required the confidence, not merely of the Crown, but of the popular branch of the Legislature. But the object sought in Canada was to subject the entire administration functions of Government to the representative body, fluctuating in its composition, and representing mainly one class—that of the humblest in society. This was a theory of "responsible government" incompatible with monarchy. The Governor-General was required to lay all his powers at the feet of the Colonial Legislature, and yet to be responsible to the Government at home. This was absurd and impracticable:—

He did not now enter into the question of whether responsible government was or was not likely to be conducive to the prosperity and welfare of Canada—whether it was most likely to enlist in the ranks of a Government the greatest number of men of talent, honour, integrity, and station. The principle had been fully recognised on the part of Government, both here and in Canada; and it was upon the principle of that recognition that

Sir C. Metcalfe had avowed his determination to conduct the Government of that colony. But what did this resolution state? That the Governor-General was responsible to the imperial authority alone. Responsible! For what? The doctrine of the honourable and learned gentleman would leave him no responsibility, for it would leave him neither power, authority, nor discretion—a mere instrument in the hands of the Executive Council, nominated by the dominant party in the province—and yet, forsooth, that Governor-General, who was to be at the feet of the Executive Council—itsself the organ of the dominant power of the day—that Governor-General was to be solely responsible to the imperial authority. Why, this was a practical absurdity—(Hear). Taking the principle as he interpreted it, it was to be exercised with mutual forbearance and good sense, neither party straining their power, but making concessions to the wishes of the other. Interpreting the principle in this way, it was possible—nay, it was not difficult—successfully to administer the affairs of Canada by its application. But, taking it as urged by the honourable and learned gentleman, it was a mere absurdity—(Hear, hear). Without power there could be no responsibility. Yet the honourable gentleman proposed to take away all power from the governor, and then mock the Government at home by calling him responsible to it—(Cheers). For what was he to be responsible? Not for the exercise of patronage, which the Executive Council would deny him; not for the exercise of the prerogative of the Crown, in withholding the assent of the Crown from measures which he considered dangerous. Well, for what was he to be responsible, if it were not on these two heads—for the proper distribution of the rewards and honours in the power of the Crown to bestow, and for the exercise of that prerogative of the Crown which consisted in interposing the authority of the Crown with respect to certain acts of the Legislature? Both of these powers the council withheld from the Governor-General, and not only withheld, but they claimed that as to one of them he should declare by an instrument under his own hands that he for one surrendered it.

The noble lord here entered into a narrative of the differences between Sir C. Metcalfe and his council, defending the course the Governor-General had pursued, and insisting that, if he were to give up his power of patronage, the result would be a bigoted exclusion of the minority from all offices of trust and profit:—

Suppose it should so happen, in the mutability of affairs in Canada, that the British party, to the exclusion of the French party, should attain political power, did the hon. and learned gentleman think that it would be right, or safe, or wise, that a dominant political party, so constituted, should have the power of excluding from all office, of whatever description, the whole of the French population, as being connected with their political enemies? Did he think that the minority, whether it were Tory, Radical, English or French, or whatever it were—did he not think that it would have a better chance of fair play in the distribution of patronage, when that patronage was vested in the hands of the Governor-General, than it would have if it were in the power of their political opponents?—(Hear, hear). But he would go further. Suppose an Administration, formed mainly of those persons who had been, to say the least of it, luke-warm when that colony was in danger of being wrested from the mother country—some of whom might have given a tacit encouragement to those who wished for the separation—suppose that the Legislature so constituted, and the Administration so formed, had the absolute disposal of the patronage of the Crown—did the hon. gentleman think it would be consistent with the dignity, the honour—to use his own phrase, the metropolitan interests of the Crown—that the patronage should be in the hands of such an Administration, and should be used to reward the very men who in the hour of peril had hung back, and to prescribe and drive out of the service of the country all who in the hour of peril had come forward to maintain the union of the colony with England? And did the honourable gentleman think that it would be wise or consistent with the honour of the Crown that such rewards and privileges in the one instance, and such proscriptions in the other, should be in the one case conferred, in the other inflicted, not in the name of the Legislature of the province, but in the name of the Crown—that the Crown should confer honour and reward upon those who had favoured the curtailment of its dominions on the one hand, and should inflict proscription upon those who had wished to maintain their integrity on the other?—(Loud cheers). He did not know what the House would think of this. Yes, perhaps he did know what it would think of such a plan: but this he did know, that, sooner than submit to such a demand, there was no privation, no sacrifice to which the Governor General would not first succumb—(Cheers.)

But the appointment of Sir C. Metcalfe had not been so fortunate as to meet with Mr. Roebuck's approbation:—

The hon. and learned gentleman had stated that Sir Charles Metcalfe was unfortunately not educated for the service of a free country. What! Sir Charles Metcalfe! Was he a man of extreme opinions—a favourer of absolute and despotic government—was he a man unpractised in public affairs—with no prudence or discretion—of stern and repulsive manners—hostile to popular institutions, and willing to be an instrument for their subversion? Those who knew anything about Sir C. Metcalfe knew that he was precisely the opposite of all this—that he was a man not the supporter of the present Government—of liberal views in political matters—practised in public business—having passed a long and honourable career in two important portions of the British empire—into one of which—into India—he had introduced the liberty of the press—(Cheers). It was known to all who knew Sir Charles Metcalfe that he was a man of the most sociable; the most unassuming, the most courteous manners—of the most princely liberality in pecuniary matters—a man so far from being unfit to conduct affairs of Government by means of a representative assembly, that he had been selected by the late Government to go to the Island of Jamaica to deal with the legislative body

there, which was at that moment in such a state of jarring hostility to the home Government, that it had been attempted to do away with it as an unfit instrument for the regulation of the country over which it was called to preside—(Hear). He repeated that he was sent out not for the hatred he bore to free institutions, or the resistance which he was likely to oppose to the demands of a popular assembly—and what was the result! In the course of two years he rescued Jamaica from a state of discontent and distraction, and placed it in a condition of perfect harmony and contentment, in which state, brought about by it, he remembered by the wise liberal, and conciliatory policy of Sir Charles Metcalfe, that colony had remained from that day to this—(Loud Cheers). That is the man whom the honourable and learned gentleman (perhaps he is the only man in the House that would use the expression) says was unfortunately brought up for the management of affairs in Canada.

It has been said that Sir Charles Metcalfe had never explained what he meant by responsible Government. To show how erroneous was that objection, he would read some passages from his address to the Assembly on the subject:—

"With reference to your views of responsible government, I cannot tell you how far I concur in them without knowing your meaning, which is not distinctly stated. If you mean that the governor is to have no exercise of his own judgement in the administration of the Government, and is to be a mere tool in the hands of the Council, then I totally disagree with you. That is a condition to which I can never submit, and which her Majesty's Government, in my opinion, never can sanction. If you mean that every word and deed of the governor is to be previously submitted for the advice of the council, and then you propose what, besides being unnecessary and useless, is utterly impossible, consistently with the due despatch of business. If you mean that the patronage of the Crown is to be surrendered for exclusive party purposes to the Council, instead of being distributed to reward merit, to meet just claims, and to promote the efficiency of the public service, then we are again at issue. Such a surrender of the prerogative of the Crown is, of my opinion, incompatible with the existence of a British colony. If you mean that the governor is a responsible officer who can, without responsibility, adopt the advice of the council, then you are I conceive, entirely in error. The undisputed function of the governor are such, that he is not only one of the hardest-worked servants of the colony, but also has more responsibilities than any other officer in it. He is responsible to the Crown, and the Parliament, and the people of the mother country, for every act that he performs, or suffers to be done, whether it originates with himself, or is adopted on the advice of others. He could not divest himself of that responsibility by pleading the advice of the council. He is also virtually responsible to the people of this colony, and practically more so than even to the mother country. Every day proves it, and no resolutions can make it otherwise. But if, instead of meaning any of the above-stated impossibilities, you mean that the Government should be administered according to the well-understood wishes and interests of the people; that the resolutions of September, 1841, should be faithfully adhered to; that it should be competent to the council to offer advice on all occasions, whether as to patronage or otherwise; and that the governor should receive it with the attention due to his constitutional advisers, and consult with them in all cases of adequate importance; that there should be a cordial co-operation and sympathy between him and them; that the council should be responsible to the Provincial Parliament and the people; and that, when the acts of the governor are such as they do not choose to be responsible for, they should be at liberty to resign—then I entirely agree with you, and see no impracticability in carrying on responsible government in a colony on that footing, provided that the respective parties engaged in the undertaking be guided by moderation, honest purpose, common sense, and equitable minds devoid of party spirit. As you have considerably tendered to me your advice in the supposition that I stood in need of it, I trust that I may, without offence, offer some counsel in return. You have all the essentials of responsible government. Keep it. Cling to it. Do not throw it away by grasping at impossibilities. Do not lose the substance by snatching at the shadow. You desire to perpetuate your union with the British empire. Do not imagine that this purpose can be promoted by obstructing Her Majesty's Government in order to reduce its authority to a nullity. You have every privilege freely granted that is compatible with the maintenance of that union. Her Majesty's Government has no inclination to exercise an unnecessary interference in your local affairs; but can never consent to the prostration of the honour and dignity of the Crown, and I cannot be the traitor that would sign the death-warrant of British connection. Cherish responsible government and British connection. Let them work together in harmony and union in a practicable manner. Let no man put them assunder, but do not pursue a course that must destroy one or the other, or both. This advice is offered with perfect sincerity by a friend, whose only interest in the counsel that he gives is an anxious desire to secure the welfare of Canada and the integrity of the British empire."

Not one of Sir Charles Metcalfe's appointments had ever been questioned on the ground of propriety—not one of his acts had ever been condemned as subversive of the just authority of the Colonial Legislature. Yes one of his acts had, and that one he would explain.

It has been charged against him that he reserved for the consideration of the crown a bill which he permitted his council to introduce. That bill was against secret societies. It was directed by the party in power against a party obnoxious to it—I mean the Orange party. I have no sympathy whatever with that party. I believe that any advantage derived from the loyalty they profess, and which I believe they sincerely feel, is more than counterbalanced by the religious animosities and political dissen-