

retire, by which there would be four seats for their party. But they had lost faith in governments composed of men holding opposite principles; and they informed the governor that they could not act with the present members of his Council, between whom and themselves the people would soon judge at the polls.

Reform Government, 1847, 1848.— The people gave their decision in favour of the reformers. The elections came off on the 5th of August, 1847, the first occasion in the history of the province when all the votes were polled in a single day. Previously, the elections were at different times in the various counties, and in each county the voting was continued from day to day for a week or more. When the House met in the following January the reformers had a majority of seven. Mr. Johnstone and his friends resigned, and the first Liberal Government was formed.

CHAPTER XVI.

GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PROGRESS.

THE question of responsible government, which had agitated the country for many years, was finally settled. The voice of the people was recognised by all parties as the supreme authority, at whose bidding governments must stand or fall. It mattered little to the country now which party ruled, Tory and Liberal were but empty names; as to the principles of the two parties there was little difference. Sometimes, indeed, the Tories outstripped the Liberals themselves