

assumed temporarily by Lieutenant-Colonel Bowes and afterwards by Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Brock, between both of whom and Mr. President Dunn, there arose the same class of disputes as with General Hunter, respecting the expenditure of military funds for civil purposes. Acting apparently on the urgent representations made as to the evils arising from a divided command, the Colonial Secretary, Lord Castlereagh, informed General Prescott on the 10th of August, 1807, that the existing state of affairs rendered "it absolutely necessary that a different arrangement should be made in respect to the government of the North American Provinces," and intimating that the King intended to send out an officer to succeed him (Prescott) in the Government. How tenderly were regarded the interests of Prescott, so far as the emoluments were concerned, in an office which so far as can be seen he had held as a sinecure for so many years, may be judged by the words announcing his supercession: "You will, I trust, feel in its true light the motives which at this period have suggested this measure, and I lament that the imperious exigency of circumstances should necessitate an arrangement which may interfere with your arrangements."

The critical condition of affairs in the two Provinces that rendered this necessary is treated of in another part of this report in discussing the apprehended hostilities arising out of the desire of the French to regain possession of Canada and of the demands of the United States for the renunciation of the right of search hitherto exercised by Great Britain.

To judge by the current histories of Upper Canada, the knowledge of the domestic politics of that Province at the beginning of this century, appears to be very limited, only a few vague generalities being given. It has, therefore, been thought desirable to publish at some length the correspondence during the administration of President Grant and part of that of Lieutenant-Governor Gore. The leader of the opposition to government, appears to have been Mr. Justice Thorpe, who is referred to in laudatory terms in the histories of the Province. Without expressing any opinion as to the correctness or otherwise of this appreciation of his conduct, a reference to the correspondence in note D, will show the tone of his letters. The position of Mr. Thorpe as a hot political partisan and a judge of the highest court would not now be tolerated. At any time, however legal it might be, in the sense of not being contrary to any statute, it must have been prejudicial in its effect of undermining respect for judicial decisions, as however impartial the judge might be on the Bench, the public would regard his decisions as influenced, if not dictated, by his political tendencies. His attack on General Hunter, as having nearly ruined the Province by his rapaciousness and that he and his Scotch tools were execrated; that there were no roads, no post, no religion, no morals, no education, no trade, no agriculture, no industry attended to, was a prelude to his attacks on succeeding administrations, and in a postscript to the letter in which these words occur (note D, p. 39) he boasts that he had taken the reins of the Legislature, "though like Phaeton I seized them precipitately, I shall not burn myself and hope to save others." In letter No. 8, of the same note D, p. 40, he repeats the charge, this time including President Grant, who had been selected for the office on the death of Hunter, although not without opposition from Mr. Peter Russell, who maintained that he was entitled to the position and in this claim was supported by Mr. Thorpe.