

in this case I think we ought to recognize the propriety of looking closely into the true state of things, before stigmatising the events which really have taken place, in such terms of undue severity as have been employed against the malcontent Canadians so unjustly as injudiciously, and in such a way as will be sure to prejudice our case most lamentably in the estimation of the world. After all, the parts of Lower Canada wherein troubles did break out openly, comprised but a small section of the district of Montreal, or a narrow strip of territory bordering the river Richelieu. Now, what was the political state of this region anterior to the troubles therein? The public mind was inflamed by violent contestations of a partisan character,—not unconstitutional, however, for they were the natural result of the exercise of the electoral franchise,—carried on with unwonted heat. The spirit of party it was chiefly, and nothing worse, that, having exasperated the natures of those most under its domination, led to the excesses which the country had to endure and deplore. To justify this opinion of mine, I need only mention, that the sole locality anywhere north of the St. Lawrence which had in it an insurrectionary outbreak, was the county of the Two Mountains: now here, as in the Richelieu region, were there previously electioneering struggles of an unusually ardent character. Let it be remembered again, that those located in sundry parts of the province, but more especially at Montreal and in the environs of that city, are people of the British and Anglo-American races, to whom all the older Canadian and liberal and independent inhabitants can be nothing less than adversely inclined; the former, in their conduct, generally speaking, evincing a spirit of domination over the population of French origin; and even aspiring to monopolize the power and patronage of the state. It is to the overweening pretensions of this section of the general population, resisted as those naturally are by the majority of the inhabitants, that we must chiefly attribute the troubles which have lately vexed the land. In proof of what I now state, I may make mention of one of the first movements made by the leaders of the Brito-Canadian party, upon my arrival in the province: In a meeting convoked by them, it was proposed to raise a corps of volunteers, to be called the 'British Rifle Legion,' or some such distinctive (and of course invidious) appellation; and one of the resolutions came to was, that the privates should choose their own officers. I took the earliest occasion that presented itself, to remonstrate against the formation of such a body, but in a confidential and amicable way; yet all my efforts to prevent the project taking shape were useless. The result was, I felt constrained to order the disbandment of the corps by a formal proclama-