

teuil and annexed to Two Mountains, and part of Mille Isles and part of Morin, the inhabitants of which were likely to vote for him with equal unanimity, had been added to Argenteuil, thus making an estimated difference against me of between three and four hundred votes. The franchise had been considerably extended, and it was calculated that the consequent increase in the number of votes would be greater in proportion in the back country than in the front. On the other hand I was of opinion that the violence of feeling which had prevailed had greatly subsided; that the people would not again suffer any great impropriety to be committed at the polls, and that my complete independence of local feeling and of local disputes, would render futile any attempt to excite active animosity against me, or to procure the infringement of the laws to any extent. I was convinced that as the franchise then stood I could command a majority, and I felt that the only thing to be feared was the repetition of the voting of 1854 and 1855. As usual in such cases I was partly right and partly wrong. There was very little of the former wholesale manufacture of votes attempted. So far as that was concerned I escaped with the infliction of eight or ten deceased soldiers of the staff corps who were recuscitated in Harrington for that occasion only, and a few schoolboys and strangers in Mille Isles. But the settlers were persuaded that every man in possession of any land was entitled to vote, whether he occupied as a squatter or as proprietor: whether indebted to the Crown for arrears under a location ticket, or holder of a clear patent; consequently hundreds of persons without title or commencement of title; or if holding under permits, in arrears to the Crown; were induced to record their votes against me, and on examining the poll I found, as I anticipated, that I had a large majority of legal votes, but that my return could only be procured through the intervention of an application to the House. This, also, had been considered before the canvas was commenced, and I had then resolved to push the matter to a contest, should the voting be conducted in a way to afford substantial grounds of complaint. That resolution I have carried out, under circumstances of difficulty, of which a perusal of the following pages will afford only a faint idea; but I have done so less from any great attraction which the duties and responsibilities of a Legislator possess for me, than from the determination I formed at the commencement of the struggle, to wrest, if possible, the representation of my native county from the hands of a man, whom I and my friends believed to have obtained it illegally and unjustly.