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of the Crown ; and but for some of the provisions which accompanied the splendid gift, such as the retention of French laws, language, &c., there is reason to conclude that, under firm and steady government, a measure so worthy of success might have secured the lasting peace and prosperity of the colony. That the system worked well for many years has not been questioned or denied ; and the conduct of the Canadians during the last American war might alone suffice to prove that they were happy and contented with their lot. How comes it then that a few short years have worked so dire a change in the feelings of this once loyal people ? Their rights or privileges have never been invaded, and their institutions have been expanded, if not improved, to an extent that marks the ready acquiescence of the Government in every wish that might with safety be conceded. But here, as elsewhere, the declamations of a hardened band of political adventurers have been mistaken in Downing Street for the voice of the people, and by pandering to these demagogues an absolute dictatorship was erected in the province—a power above the law, whose will speedily became absolute over an ignorant and infatuated peasantry, and whose inordinate ambition and unrelenting hatred of British dynasty has been gradually preparing the public mind for that crisis, which was to produce the separation of the colony from its kind and too indulgent parent and protectress.

The first serious differences between the local Executive and the House of Assembly grew out of the stoppage of the Parliamentary grants, voted in support of the civil establishment of the province: the application to the Assembly for the means of supplying the deficiency being met by a demand for the surrender of the Crown revenues, which to a certain extent still secured the necessary independence of the judges and the officers of the Government, and over which the House now, for the first time, asserted a right of appropriation and control. From this hour peace and harmony, as well as mutual confidence between the several branches of the Legislature, ceased to exist in Lower Canada ; and it may be with truth affirmed that these paltry financial squabbles, in connexion with the provision of a respectable and permanent civil list from colonial resources, have been the fertile source and leading cause of all the troubles and dissensions which have occurred in British North America.

We are not disposed to go into any lengthened examination of the yielding policy that has for some time past obtained in Downing-street, in reference to the casual and territorial revenues of the Crown, which had long been the only, or, at least, the most efficient check upon popular encroachment, and upon the wanton and tyrannical exercise of the ill-understood, and in the hands of ignorant or seditious men, the dangerous power of stopping the supplies, as a means of coercing the two first branches of the legislature.

The right advanced by, and conceded to, the Houses of Assembly, of controlling and appropriating the proceeds of the Royal domain, or, as it is termed, the wild lands of the Crown, appears to us to be as unsound in theory, as it will be found mischievous in practice. Even in the American Union this right has never been conceded to the people who inhabit "the territories" of the Republic, until these great portions of the federal association attain a certain population, and, arriving at