

particular moment to them in a country, furnishing intelligence through the medium of its own press. The "Times" will scarcely quarrel with me, particularly as the disclosure is made in no spirit of impugning of its liberality, when I state that offer to have been three hundred sterling per annum, exclusive of passage money and travelling expenses, which made the whole amount in Canada to exceed four hundred pounds currency, and this for merely sending home some fifty letters in the year. Well may a paper so liberally conducted, command as it deservedly does, the support and respect of the whole world.

In consequence of my detention in Montreal, I did not reach Quebec until Lord Durham had been a day or two arrived. He had landed in great state—a state befitting the vice-regal character in which he came to govern the country, and his numerous and handsome equipages, and almost interminable baggage it required some days to put on shore and dispose of. Had my friend the Yankee agent who, on a recent occasion, did me the honor to mistake me for his Lordship, been present at the disembarkation of this "plunder," he would indeed have been considerably amazed.

His Excellency's first levee was held on the day that I reached Quebec, and as I could not get my baggage conveyed to the hotel to which I had been recommended in sufficient time, I had the mortification to find my costume complete only when the last of the departing visitors announced its termination. The next day, however, I called, left my card and wrote my name in the visitors' book. An invitation to dinner quickly succeeded, and on the following Sunday I had the honor of dining at the Castle of Saint Lewis.

There was a large party assembled, consisting chiefly of the Senior Officers of the Garrison, and of the Admiral and Captains of the squadron (some seven or eight sail in number), then lying before Quebec. The conversation in the drawing-room was of a mixed and general nature, His Excellency, who wore the Order of the Bath on a plain dress coat, doing the agreeable to most of his guests in turn; but when, after dinner (and this was always given *à la Française*, and without any prolonged sitting over the dessert,) we again adjourned to the drawing room, Lord Durham was pleased to make me the especial object of his notice, by inviting me to take a seat on the sofa between himself and his beautiful sister-in-law, Mrs. Grey. Here during two hours of unbroken conversation, he was pleased to make known to me all his projected plans of government, and sought, it was evident to me, to seek my approval.

So much marked attention on the part of the first Governor-General of British North America, and a nobleman so reputedly haughty as the Earl of Durham, I certainly had not the vanity to attribute to any particular merit of my own. I was well assured that in thus singling me (then a stranger to him) from the distinguished company with which the drawing-room was filled, His Excellency was anxious to acknowledge the power of that mighty engine I was in Canada to represent, and which, Earl as he was, and invested with a dignity only inferior to that of the Sovereign, he felt could make or mar his diplomatic career. I had not, in the course of any previous conversation with his Lordship, made the slightest allusion to the political position in which I was placed, but I had reason to believe that this had been made known to him by others. I am particular in stating this, because it reflects the utmost credit on the character of the distinguished statesman, whose services have been so insufficiently acknowledged by his country, that in his views of the government of Canada he was desirous of securing the approbation even of those who were opposed to him in political principle. Had Lord Durham really been the unduly haughty man he has been represented, that consideration never would have weighed with him. He would have followed his own course, as circumstances might have directed, and, satisfied of the integrity of his purpose, have yielded up the trust which had been reposed in him by his Sovereign, in the full consciousness of having done his duty, and therefore in a spirit of disregard of all party censure.

But although Lord Durham was naturally desirous that the "Times" should think favorably of his measures, and, on all suitable occasions, put me in possession of such views of policy as he conceived to be most calculated to ensure the support of that journal, there was nothing in his language or manner to induce the slightest suspicion that he was actuated by other than the most straight-forward motives. He desired that his actions should be judged solely in accordance with their own merits, and in a spirit of impartiality. He had no tortuous policy to sustain, no selfish views to accomplish. Neither wealth nor title was to be his reward for successfully acquitting himself of the high trust confided to him. Both of these he possessed, and therefore to obtain them there could be no need of sacrifice of his integrity. Ambition, the laudable ambition of healing the wounds of a distracted and an important colony, to which the attention of all Europe was then directed, was the chief, indeed his only aim; and as no skill, no strategy of the mere political empiric could render the curing of the disease a creditable one, he was too proud to apply remedies which should not be of enduring efficacy. Had he condescended to these he would at least have

been better thanked, while he would at the same time have saved himself much unrequited trouble. Never was there a man whose warm honesty of purpose, as attested during his many conversations with me on the subject, was less understood or acknowledged, than that Lord Durham, during his brief administration of the affairs of Canada. And here let me revert to his general policy.

In undertaking the mission confided to him by his Sovereign, Lord Durham never could have anticipated the restraints that were intended to be imposed upon a course of political conduct, which, to be really valuable or efficient, required to be unrestricted both in spirit and in letter. Had it been otherwise, His Lordship never would have placed himself at the mercy of those, who, with the will, seem to have had the power, to coerce his public conduct in a manner the most injurious to the interests of his new government. Even had the slightest intimation been given prior to his departure from England that it was the intention of the Imperial Parliament to watch his career with a close and jealous eye, and to disavow whatever acts were not recognized by the acknowledged law of the land he was about to govern, it is probable that his Lordship would have stipulated, as a leading condition of his acceptance of the highly responsible office, that something more should be left to the judgment (which a personal acquaintance with the country should enable him to form) than was comprehended in the mere technical reading of the act constituting the High-Commissionership. But no such limitation of power was at that time either prescribed or hinted at. Both the open and the secret enemies of Lord Durham waited until the mission had departed, and then, and not until then, they carefully conned over the act, paragraph by paragraph, manifesting an unworthy anxiety to seize on the slightest pretext for casting censure upon whatever stroke of policy—no matter how indispensable to the peace and prosperity of the country—should not prove to be in strict accordance with the letter of the act. Like so many Shylocks, they were resolved to insist upon the pound of flesh, and the pound of flesh only, in liquidation of the bond.

Meanwhile the arrival of Lord Durham, at Quebec, was hailed by the united population of Canada, who had looked forward to his advent with a full assurance that he came armed with extraordinary powers, suited to the emergency, and necessarily possessed of the appliances necessary to soothe the differences which had so long agitated the country. This indeed was an almost herculean task, but I shall presently refer to the grand and comprehensive measure entertained by his Lordship with this object immediately in view: first, however, taking a brief survey of his general policy.

The early efforts of Lord Durham were directed, in the first instance, to the punishment of those state prisoners whom the highly culpable indecision of his predecessor (Lord Gosford) had suffered to remain so long undisposed of; and in the second, to the establishment of such relations with the President of the United States as would guarantee to the Canadas the observance of a strict neutrality, in the event of any future disturbance in the country.

As the act of amnesty is too much a matter of history—and of eventful history both in itself and in its consequences—to be passed over without comment, it may be well to call the attention of the reader to the particular circumstances under which it was promulgated.

Had Lord Durham's mission to Canada taken place during the progress of the rebellion, the exigency might have called for, and of course would have commanded, the stringent application of the power conferred by the authority (supposed extraordinary, but not so in fact, if we are to believe the House of Lords) vested in the commission. In such case Lord Durham would have done what his predecessor in the government had failed to do, and the summary process of martial law, which ought to have been resorted to long before his Lordship's arrival in the country, would have purged Canada of the traitors whom an injudicious party spirit at home had fostered into uncompromising enemies of British rule. But Lord Durham's mission, undertaken as it was, a moment when these disturbances had apparently ceased, was not that of an avenger but of a pacificator. It was less an object with him to punish with rigor the guilty leaders of the rebellion, than to pour the oil of conciliation into the wounds of two distinct parties, mutually injured and injuring; and with a view to this end, he, like a skillful physician, prepared a remedy for a disease which being without parallel, and of a new and extraordinary character, required some unusual application to remove it.

A correct appreciation of the condition of the country, and of the almost mockery of the trial by jury, where the party accused of political crimes had the power of challenging his judges, until he had succeeded in obtaining those by whom he felt confident of being acquitted, at once suggested to the mind of his Lordship the futility and ridicule, nay, the encouragement to future acts of rebellion, which must be consequent on the submittal to the civil tribunal of the traitors then in confinement. Even admitting that he could have anticipated the condemnation of the rebel chiefs, the very act of referring them to an ordeal that might have entailed the punishment of death, would have been completely to have defeated the principal object of his mission, namely, the pacification of all existing feuds between the British and French populations.

[TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.]