

transmit the address to the King, and he would do so, to show his sense of their voluntary pledge and promise to pay the civil expenditure of the Province without repugnance, but that the step must not be held as compliance with any unconstitutional proceeding.

But the Parliament was not to end in peace. A Bill was introduced making Judges incapable of sitting in the Lower House. Sent to the Upper House, a clause was added that it should take effect after the expiration of the present Parliament. The House of Assembly therefore declared Judge DeBoune's seat vacant. But Sir James Craig was on his side in no way to be outgeneralled, for he at once prorogued parliament, and he informed the members that he had determined again to appeal to the people. This step was taken on the 26th February, 1810. Within twenty days another proceeding followed, so uncalled for, so arbitrary, so marked by folly, that every one concerned must partake of the disgrace with which history has stamped the act. This was the seizure of the *Canadien*. On the warrant of Chief Justice Sewell, a party of soldiers, with a magistrate, entered the printing office of this paper on the 17th March, and seized the whole of the type presses and paper. The printer was also apprehended, and in two days afterwards three members of the House of Assembly Messrs. Bedard, Blanchet and Taschereau were arrested at Quebec. Messrs. Laforce, Pierre Papineau and Corbeil, underwent the same treatment at Montreal.

On the 21st March, the Governor issued one of his extraordinary proclamations, a proof that the whole scheme was pre-determined. No one can doubt Sir J. Craig's honesty and excellence of character; and the only explanation possible to this extraordinary proceeding is that the office-holders seeing that there was a chance of their position being assailed, had persuaded him that really some traitorous conspiracy did exist. It is not impossible that the desire existed of embroiling the Imperial Government in the quarrels which they themselves had created, the more firmly to assure themselves against Provincial influence, and the better to secure the positions they held. One fact is certain, nothing in the columns of the *Canadien*