

his conversation animated, and not unfrequently playful. He is accused of being a man of ungovernable passions, but nothing can be more untrue. Mr. Papineau's indignation at wrongs suffered by his country, is a manly and honorable feeling—such as cannot but be experienced by every Canadian susceptible of a generous emotion in favor of his injured and insulted country, and which Englishmen too have known, when contemplating the vicious government which prevails in Canada. In private life, Mr. Papineau is a man of mild and amiable manners. He is courteous in the House of Assembly, and there are now even in the British parliament, many who are numbered among his country's oppressors, who could refute the calumnies respecting him.

During the thirty years which Mr. Papineau has been in public life, he has been the object of the bitter, unrelenting hatred of the enemies of the people, and his character has been assailed by defamation of every sort.

He is accused of loving money, and of making his public influence a means of increasing his wealth. No charge can be farther from the truth than this. To devote the whole of his time and talents to the service of his country, he abandoned long since, a lucrative practice. Had he continued at the bar, and supported the views of the government, instead of vindicating the rights of the people, he might to-day have been on the bench or in possession of the highest honors which the enemies of his country could bestow. He has been faithful to the people, and as a reward for his fidelity a price is set on his head!

If further proof of his respect for principle were necessary, we might cite the firmness with which he has abstained for many years, from accepting his salary as speaker of the assembly. A remuneration of \$4000 per annum was attached to this situation about 20 years ago. It formed an item in the appropriation bill, annually voted by the assembly. In the year 1832-3, the assembly of Lower Canada stopt the supplies, and has ever since refused to vote the public salaries, until the advances of which the country complained should be addressed. The British government, thereupon stepped in and took upon itself to pay the salaries which the Canadian assembly, for reasons above mentioned, refused to vote. An order was signed by the governor for the payment of Mr. Papineau's salary with the rest, but this order, for want of the money, he has constantly refused to touch for many years, inasmuch as the assembly, the only constitutional authority, had not voted it. He has

lost \$20,000 by this one act of patriotic self-denial. Indeed, so determined is he to preserve his independence in public life, that he has refused even to hold bank stock, lest his private might clash with the public interest, or the purity of his votes on questions where banks are interested might be questioned.

Mr. Papineau is said to be an enemy to trade. It is false—he is a warm friend to trade, so long as it requires no privileges injurious to the community.

What he is an enemy to is—*monopoly*. He is the enemy of all those who seek to injure the community, by means of restrictive laws in their own favor. He is only an enemy to trade in the sense that some of our most enlightened legislators are so—he is an opponent, and a powerful one too, of restriction, and commercial robbery, and hence there is a whole host of commercial jobbers ever ready to calumniate him. Mr. Papineau, in short, takes enlarged and liberal views of commercial legislation, and cannot adapt his ideas to the pinched and narrow notions of a few colonial traders, who are, for the most part, the most ignorant and selfish class of persons in her majesty's dominions.

Equally untenable is the charge of want of courage. Mr. Papineau on many occasions of severe trial has exhibited both physical and moral courage of no ordinary character. Not a session of the legislature has passed without his having received a multitude of anonymous letters, threatening him with all sorts of violence and death, if he would not change his political course and abstain from exposing the abuses which prevailed in the government. Mr. Papineau went calmly on his way, despising these threats. So strong, however, was the impression that terrorism and fright would affect what bribes, flattery and coaxing failed to accomplish, that Lord Gosford, the late governor of the province, condescended to have recourse to a despicable trick of a similar low character, with a view to influence Mr. Papineau's parliamentary conduct.

It was in the beginning of the year 1836, whilst Mr. P. was attending his legislative duties, that Lord Gosford became impatient for a vote of supplies. He imagined that the speaker was the principal obstacle to the completion of his wishes. Flattery, empty promises and emptier professions had been previously tried without avail: the appeal to Mr. Papineau's fears was then resolved on. A message from the governor was delivered to him, with a most mysterious air, whilst he was dining with one of the officials, stating that he