

for Republican principles. "The time had gone by," said Papineau, "when Europe could give monarchs to America. The epoch is approaching when America will give republics to Europe." Now Adam Thom, though, no doubt sympathising with the just claim of the French Canadians for self government, was intensely British in feeling, and therefore entered with great ardour into the discussions then going on. Well educated, fond of society, which in Montreal was entirely under the control of the ruling powers, and with his career to make, the young lawyer threw himself into the wordy warfare, and wrote the Anti-Gallic Letters, signed "Camillus," remembered for many a day for their anti-French fervor and power; and also those signed "Anti-Bureaucrat," criticising the petition of the revolutionists of Lower Canada, presented to the British House of Commons; both of which series of letters were afterwards published in separate form. For a time he occupied the position of editor of the leading English journal of Lower Canada, the *Montreal Herald*. His prominence as a publicist naturally drew to him the attention of the Earl of Durham, who arrived in Canada on his mission of pacification on May 29th, 1838. This brilliant nobleman, whose manliness and earnestness in assailing the existing abuses in Canada called forth from a French-Canadian writer the acknowledgement that "he was one of the truest friends misruled Canada ever had," and who did more for Canada in the short six months of his stay in the New World than any other Governor-General in his full term, had the faculty of associating with himself men of the greatest ability. As to the great report, which was, at the time, described "as one of the ablest and most important state papers of this age," Justin McCarthy says of him in his "History of our Own Times," "His policy for the Canadas was a great success. It established the principles of a colonial government." With him on his staff Lord Durham had brought over, as secretaries and assistants, three men of exceptional ability—Mr. Charles Buller (afterwards the Right Hon. Charles Buller, member of the British House of Commons); the brilliant though somewhat wayward Edward Gibbon Wakefield; and Thomas Turton, a very clever barrister. To this group of able assistants the young lawyer, Adam Thom, was added, and in the train of the great Liberal Statesman he returned to Great Britain in the autumn of 1838, where he spent the winter in London.

In 1835 the Hudson's Bay Company received back from the Earl of Selkirk's heirs the transfer of the District of Assiniboine, which had been sold to the Earl in 1811. As the population of the Settlement had grown by this time to about 5,000 souls, it was deemed wise to have established some simple form of legal institutions. A council of fifteen members appointed by the Hudson Bay Company met at Fort Garry on the 12th of February of that year, and passed certain ordinances. Among these was one dividing the settlement into four districts, and establishing a quarterly court in each of these competent to deal with small amounts. Each of these courts was empowered to refer any case of doubt or difficulty to the Court of Governor and Council of Assiniboine, as the Red River Legislature and Judicial body was called. The establishment of a Court of Appeal, such as had been decided on, and the fact that the Governor of the Colony was sometimes a trader and at other times a military officer, led the Company to consider the necessity of appointing a trained lawyer to adju-