

guarded against giving currency to unfounded, mischievous and illiberal rumours, for the truth of which he admits he is unable to vouch.

First announcement of Lord Durham's appointment caused disappointment.

Apprehensions not less when his advisers were known.

Chief secretary known to advocate the opinions of Papineau and M'Kenzie.

Determination to receive Lord Durham with confidence.

No consequence what Lord Durham was in English politics if his judgment were exercised soundly and upright.

No high-minded Englishman living long in America but must be disgusted with the exhibition of republican institutions.

Lord Durham received on landing with enthusiasm.

First act of his Lordship.

Received with satisfaction.

Some baneful influence marred the resolutions of his Lordship.

From the date of his first proclamation no regard for restraints of law and constitution marked his public acts.

When it was first announced that the noble Lord had been selected by Her Majesty to represent the Royal Authority in these colonies, in the two-fold authority of Governor-general and High Commissioner, with powers far greater, as it was asserted, than had ever been confided to any of his Lordship's predecessors, it cannot be denied that a very general feeling of disappointment and apprehension pervaded the loyal population of the provinces. His Lordship's political principles were, of course, universally known, and it was feared that he might too readily adopt and act upon opinions that had unhappily been long in the ascendant, and which, from want of an earlier check, had brought upon the country all the misfortunes with which it had been afflicted. Neither were these apprehensions lessened, when it was ascertained who were to be his Lordship's ostensible advisers, and the chief officers of his suite. Apart from objections of a merely personal character, (although these in an unsophisticated society, such as existed in Canada, were far from overlooked,) it was known that the gentleman named as chief secretary, as well as some others, were identified with a small knot of politicians, who had undisguisedly advocated the views and opinions of Papineau and Mackenzie, and whose desire to release these colonies from what they termed "the baneful domination of the mother country" had been plainly avowed. Notwithstanding these reasonable apprehensions, however, the population, as if by common agreement, determined to receive his Lordship with the utmost cordiality and manifestation of confidence. They were aware that he had been for many years a Member of the Imperial Parliament; that he had for some time occupied a seat in the cabinet under Earl Grey, and that he had filled a diplomatic appointment of considerable importance; and they believed that it was quite impossible for him to have been engaged in these various employments without acquiring a knowledge of public business, and being taught a prudent wariness of conduct that would prevent his falling into any great or irretrievable error. But that which the loyalists chiefly relied upon was the character which was ascribed to his Lordship of integrity, intelligence and love of country; they did not fear the result of his mission if he were possessed of these great and essential qualities. It was comparatively of little consequence whether he was Tory, Whig or Radical in England, if in Canada he would exercise a sound, upright, patriotic and independent judgment. It had never happened that a man guided by these principles, and possessed of a dispassionate mind, had failed, after a short residence in the North American colonies, to detect the fallacy of the "conciliating" policy that had been so long pursued, or to determine which party sincerely desired to perpetuate the connexion with the mother country; and which was aiming, under the specious pretext of securing liberal institutions, to sever the union and establish a democracy. Neither was an instance known of a high-minded Englishman residing in America for any length of time, however strong his predilections might previously have been, who did not leave it with a feeling of disgust at the practical exhibition of republican institutions on this continent. Accordingly, upon his landing at Quebec, Lord Durham was received with the appearance of enthusiasm, and certainly with the most sincere desire to convince him that no impediment would be thrown in the way of his government by those who were truly desirous that peace and order should be again restored to the country, and who were heartily tired of the imbecility with which affairs had been conducted for the greater portion of the two preceding years.

The first act of his Lordship's administration was the issuing of a proclamation, setting forth the objects of his mission and the policy he was determined to pursue in executing his high and important duties. He declared that "the honest and conscientious advocates of reform and of the ameliorations of defective institutions should receive from him, without distinction of party, races or politics, the assistance and encouragement which their patriotism had a right to command from all who desired to strengthen and consolidate the connexion between the parent state and these important colonies; but the disturbers of the public peace, the violators of the law, the enemies of the Crown and of the British empire, would find in him an uncompromising opponent, determined to put in force against them all the powers, civil and military, with which he was invested."

This manifesto was received with general satisfaction by the well-affected in both provinces; they desired no more than that the principles it avowed should be fully and faithfully acted up to, well persuaded that if this were done, the peace of the country would be quickly restored.

Your committee are not disposed to doubt that Lord Durham sincerely desired and intended to fulfil, to the very letter, every pledge, direct or implied, contained in his proclamation,—that his acts would be marked by discretion and a respect for constitutional principles, and that he was firmly resolved to exert every faculty he possessed in restoring tranquillity and security to the Canadas: unhappily, however, some baneful influence intervened, or some defect of judgment existed, to mar and frustrate these noble and generous resolutions. Your committee disclaim the intention of uttering one single sentiment that can be construed into wilful or gratuitous disrespect to the Earl of Durham, or the desire of conveying the most distant imputation on his patriotism or integrity; but in the performance of a duty which admits of no forbearance that may exclude the truth, they are bound to declare, that from the date of this proclamation to the close of his Lordship's administration, almost all his public acts were marked, either by a disregard of the restraints of law and of the constitution, or the entire absence of that knowledge essential to guide and keep a public man within the limits of the powers confided to him.

Distrust