

joy the benefits for which they labored, suffered obloquy, banishment, and some even met death on the scaffold.

For nine years this period of misrule had lasted. At last when every department had become corrupt, when, to use Sir Francis Bond Head's own words, "mechanics were flying in groups from the land as from a pestilence," the rebellion came. Emigration was virtually at an end, and all means of information were extinct.

Another source of irritation was the non-payment of the claims arising from the War of 1812. In the defence of Canada, from the first to the last, the militia had taken a very important part. Very few regular troops were in the Province at the time. Many of those who went forth to repel the invaders were men who had fought through the Revolution of 1776, and they remembered the generous compensation and the aid in every form for their loyalty and sacrifices. General Brock, in 1812, when calling them once more to the battlefield, reiterated the promises so honorably kept to the people of Canada. How they responded to the call history tells. They saw their homes from Detroit to Lake Ontario pillaged and destroyed, Niagara and St. Davids burned. When the war closed the flag they loved still waved its folds above them; Canada was still their own.

A commission appointed in 1816 met and decided upon the award. This remained unpaid. Another commission in 1823, when many of the actors and witnesses had passed away, met and cut down the claims, leaving them to be paid in instalments reaching to 1835. These, too, remained unpaid. Parliament gave smooth words, acknowledging their justice, but the claims remained unsettled though not denied. The Family Compact were having their golden harvest from official favors. Some of the aged veterans died in prison for debt, their children grew up in ignorance and poverty. The letters of that day are pitiful.

In the meantime the United States were being rapidly peopled by emigrants from the different nations of Europe. When the Napoleonic wars ceased, there was the stagnation of trade and the poverty that ever follows the track of war. England had to face the enormous debts incurred, and the high price of food, while the social problems of her statesmen, and philanthropists, were taxing the brains of both to the utmost.

Wilberforce and his friends, were proclaiming freedom to the colored race. Cobden was toiling for cheap food for the starving English people. Romilly and his friends were asking mercy for the men, women, and children who were being sent to the scaffold for trivial offences. Elizabeth Fry was giving her noble life, her brothers their means, to