

The Governor-General, on several appearances, was greeted with showers of stones and other missiles. It was party feeling now venting its wrath in riotous fashion, because of the imaginary triumph of the rebellious foe that had been crushed in 1837.

The passing of the Rebellion Losses Bill marks the final triumph of political freedom in Canada. From this time may also be dated her commercial freedom. In 1846 Britain declared for open markets, and Canada lost her advantage in the British markets for certain of her products, and trade suffered in consequence. In 1849 the repeal of the Navigation Laws by Britain removed the last barrier to Canadian commerce with foreign nations, and the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 increased the volume of trade between Canada and the United States six-fold in ten years.

Two vexed questions were still pressing for solution—the clergy reserves and the seigniorial tenure. The one contained the problem of church and state, the other the landed aristocracy against the unlanded democracy. On these the party of the Reformers could find no common ground for agreement.

Moreover, union in opposition is much easier than union in office, and it was natural, therefore, that, with the accession of the Reform party to power and the definite acceptance of the great principle which had held them together, differences of opinion which had been held in abeyance during the struggle should now appear. The Reformers were a party of progress, and it was natural that some of them should