

LORD ELGIN

“Yes,” answered Lord Elgin, “you would have been justified because your course would have been perfectly defensible; but it would not have been the best course. Mine was a better one.” And the result was this, in his own words: “700,000 French reconciled to England, not because they are getting rebel money; I believe, indeed that no rebels will get a farthing; but because they believe that the British governor is just. ‘Yes,’ but you may say, ‘this is purchased by the alienation of the British.’ Far from it, I took the whole blame upon myself; and I will venture to affirm that the Canadian British were never so loyal as they are at this hour; [this was, remember, two years after the burning of Parliament House] and, what is more remarkable still, and more directly traceable to this policy of forbearance, never, since Canada existed, has party spirit been more moderate, and the British and French races on better terms than they are now; and this in spite of the withdrawal of protection, and of the proposal to throw on the colony many charges which the imperial government has hitherto borne.”

Canadians at the beginning of the twentieth century may also say as Lord Elgin said at the close of this letter, *Magna est Veritas*.