

common consent may be regarded as the representative of the French-American population. From some considerable opportunity of knowledge and personal judgment, we are fully justified in saying that Mr. Papineau is one of the first men of the time. Amiable, polished, and courteous, his manners are on a par with his eminent natural power and capacity of intellect. It is difficult to start a subject of conversation on any topic of literature, science, or politics, on which he does not seem practically qualified to shine, and that, not by the slightest seeming effort or desire for display, but as luminous bodies shine, in all directions, because such is their nature. His language is (in the English, as much as in his native tongue) remarkably eloquent, precise, forcible, while perfectly easy and natural: rendering him, with his vigorous clearness, the tide of thought which flows transparent through his conversation, one of the most eloquent and persuasive of speakers. When to these attributes we add great simplicity and kindness, both of character and manners: a perfect purity of domestic life: a rare generosity and philosophic candor towards his opponents, as remarkably transparent in his conversation, under circumstances little calculated to foster such a love of sentiment: an earnest patriotism: an incorruptible integrity, both of private and public character: all the severe virtues (to quote an expression of one who was no blindly partial judge) of a Cato, with a mind deeply imbued with the spirit of the liberal political philosophy of the age, we shall not be surprised in what Lord Durham styles 'the extraordinary influence' such a man has been able for many years to exert in the Assembly of Lower Canada: though it by no means follows that these qualities which have made him so continued a parliamentarian should make the same individual exactly the man for a physical revolution. It was the remark of a distinguished American

Senator, founded on acquaintance dating many years back, that he has never met with a foreigner so thoroughly conversant with the history, the literature, the principles and the men of our American politics, as Mr. Papineau, and we may here allude, in passing, to the fact that Mr. Papineau's opinions fully sustained and sympathised with the general policy of the late and of the present Democratic Administration, with which he is very familiar, and especially in the great struggle for financial reform, vitally important to the best interests, moral and material, of the country, in which the same have been so deeply engaged."

After a short residence at Albany and other points in the United States, Mr. Papineau visited France, where he remained for eight years, devoting himself to literary work and studies. A *nolle prosequi* had been entered in the Montreal courts in his case in 1843, unsolicited by him. This enabled him to return to Canada, the reward offered having been withdrawn: the whole proceedings amounting to an acknowledgment that there never was any just ground for his prosecution.

Papineau had been driven into exile, a price being placed upon his head, only to be told at the end of six years that he was an innocent man. On his return to Canada in 1847 he received four years of undrawn salary due to him as Speaker of the legislative assembly, and was elected to the parliament of the United Canadas by the County of St. Maurice shortly after his return. But the conditions had changed. The rights and privileges for which he had battled had been won, and instead of finding himself surrounded, as of old, by disinterested men struggling for popular rights, he was among "ins" and "outs," the dividing line in matter of principle not being defined. He did not take kindly to the idea of having a North-American country governed upon the monarchical plan, so he soon lost interest in the parliamentary proceedings, and began to devote himself

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