

to start a newspaper in Toronto. He found warmer encouragement than he looked for. In 1843, though Toronto was a small town, its citizens were so divided that any journalist who took the side of either party could count upon its support. The party that was in power claimed to be the only truly loyal party, and that upon them depended the saving of Canada from annexation. When loyalty means love of country and devotion to its highest interests it is a noble passion, but loyalty assumed as a party cry, to support a claim to rule and to monopolise public offices, is a despicable subterfuge. Brown quickly took in the situation and saw that the loyalty cry was being used by a selfish coterie to the hurt of the common people. He was young, abounding in vitality, and of a most enthusiastic temperament. Whatever he undertook he did with all his might. A more restless, energetic young man there was not to be found in the rising town that was being built along the bay. In the slang of our day, he was a live wire, and was welcomed by those who were engaged in an uphill fight to overturn a combination who grabbed at whatever would put money in their pockets. With Brown there was no middle course, he was one-sided to the verge of arrogance. Whoever was against him was wrong, and wrong without the slightest justification and therefore in the newspaper he started he denounced opponents with all the strength of language at his command. Positive in his convictions and unwavering in whatever course he chose, he soon had a following, which included many of the more solid-thinking and prosperous people of the colony. At first he was the exponent of views they had privately formed, gradually he dictated what views they ought to hold.