

SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE
CANADIAN REVOLT IN LOWER CANADA.

LOUIS JOSEPH PAPINEAU is the son of Joseph Papineau, a notary in Montreal, who is still living, although ninety years of age. He has ever been denominated by the Canadians as "Father of the Patriots," but not a patriot either in the spirit or sense in which it is now applied to his son. This aged individual has never been the enemy of Great Britain, neither was he opposed to the Government at a period when it was generally believed by the Canadians to be the intention of England to make innovations on the institutions and privileges guaranteed to them at the conquest of the country. Yet, naturally jealous and fearful of such consequences, he was induced to take the chair at a large public meeting held on the Champ de Mars, against the then projected union of the Upper and Lower Provinces, at which a petition was voted to the Sovereign, and afterwards signed by eighty thousand Canadians, expatiating on the blessings they enjoyed under the Constitution as it then stood, and still stands, and praying that it might remain unaltered.

Such was the spirit of the aged parent of the rebel Papineau. We have been induced cursorily to mention him, merely to show that the revolutionary opinions of the son were not inculcated from early youth, but merely the out-breakings of a discontented mind, embittered by events and disasters of his own seeking. On the contrary, we have reason to believe that the aged Papineau earnestly endeavoured to check the rebellious principles exhibited by the son in all his actions for several years past, being fully convinced that he was guided and governed in all his extravagant and rebellious designs far more from vanity and ambition than from any conviction that his patriotism, so called, could lead to the welfare of his country, or that he had the means or ability of carrying his measures into effect.

Had his cause in any one principle been a just one; had there been one shadow of excuse that might have been urged in extenuation for the blood that he has been principally the cause of spilling by his patriotic rebely; had, we say, his country taken up arms at his suggestion, and in a right cause, Papineau never could have sustained the character of a leader; he never could have been their chief, for it is well known he never through life possessed one generous feeling of moral or physical courage; and the absurdity of the supposition is great that the Americans would risk a war with Great Britain to assist the Canadians in gaining their independence, for the purpose of installing Papineau chief of the Canadian nation as dictator; or that Great Britain would quietly submit to have the province wrested from her, to the destruction of the lives and properties of those emigrants who had left the home that was dear to them to establish themselves in Canada, to enjoy, as they naturally expected, the protection of the British Government; or that if he, Papineau, could succeed in separating the Canadian nation from Great Britain, that the Americans would allow them to remain so near to them without immediately attaching them to the Great Republican Family, which would be a sad exchange for the tyranny of England—so termed by General Papineau.