

neither the wisdom to yield to the repeated demands of the representatives of the Canadian people, nor the energy to maintain its own policy, as expressed in various despatches to different Governors. The spirit engendered by these had been rapidly growing for the last thirty years, alimented, no doubt, by the feeling of "*nationalité*," until it overspread the land, producing the not unnatural desire for self-government on republican principles, in imitation of our successful and powerful neighbours, who, since the achievement of their independence, have thriven, under democratic institutions, beyond example in the history of nations. Mr. Papineau, it is doing him no wrong to say, has always been the open and avowed advocate of republican institutions; and whatever may be thought, now or hereafter, of his predilections on this head, and whether beneficial or the reverse to his compatriots of French origin, all acknowledge the consistency, the sincerity, and the honesty with which, through every phase of his political life, he has maintained and still adheres to them.

As to the responsibility of the rebellion of 1837, which it has been endeavoured to fix exclusively upon Mr. Papineau, nothing is more true, according to my own observation of bygone events, than what he has observed of himself on this head, in an address which he issued in 1847, in answer to an invitation from the electors of Huntingdon and St. Maurice, both these counties having requested him to come forward as a candidate to represent them in Parliament. "Of," says he, "all those whom the passions of our adversaries have assailed, no one has had a larger portion of their wrath than has fallen to my share. I was, however, neither more nor less guilty, nor more nor less deserving, than a great number of my colleagues; but being by their benevolence placed during a long period in a position the most honorable in my country, the Speakership, conferred upon me by vote of the representatives of the people, I was thereby, more than others, exposed to the observation of friends, as well as to the animadversions of political enemies;—of personal enemies, I have not, I believe, had many, for I have never knowingly injured, or given offence to any one as an individual."

Personally acquainted, indeed intimately so, with Mr. Papineau, from boyhood (from 1807, if not before); closely observing his career through all its stages; obligated even to him, when in power, for acts of kindness and personal regard on more than one occasion, though on others, when political animosities ran high, made to smart under his displeasure, yet never ceasing, whatever were my opinion of the politics he cultivated, to respect the man, and to honor his consistency, his unyielding integrity, and his talents as a statesman and orator, I conscientiously can say, that he always seemed to me rather to move with the masses than to lead them. His extensive knowledge, particularly in constitutional lore and in history, and his commanding eloquence, no doubt had great weight with them; but to impute to him exclusively the entire responsibility and demerit, or merit, as the case may be, of the troubles