

popular form of government. The Imperial authorities were slow to accede to the demands of the reform party. Ambitious and unscrupulous demagogues strove to excite, in the rural population, a spirit of discontent and disaffection towards Imperial control. By their persistent efforts an insurrectionary movement was provoked in certain parts of the Province, and encouraged by the majority in the Assembly. At this juncture, the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada was Sir Francis Bond Head, a half-pay officer and a staunch Loyalist, though inexperienced in political warfare. With great boldness, but with an assured conviction that the mass of the people were sound in their allegiance, the Governor determined to send all the Imperial troops out of the Province, to aid in suppressing an outbreak of more serious proportions, which had commenced in Lower Canada. He resolved to trust wholly to the loyalty and good faith of the people in Upper Canada to sustain the Government. For this apparent rashness, Sir Francis was much blamed by many at the time. But the result proved that he understood the disposition of the people he had been deputed to govern better than his critics. Whilst denuding the province of every British soldier, the Governor spread abroad spirit-stirring proclamations and addresses, calling upon the Upper Canadians to rally and unite in support of their institutions and of the Crown, and by their own unaided efforts to put down this wicked and unnatural rebellion. His appeal was not in vain. From all parts of the Province volunteers hastened to Toronto, and very speedily this foolish and unwarrantable insurrection was extinguished. The policy of Sir Francis Head's proceedings for suppressing the rebellion was amply justified by the result, however hazardous it may have appeared at the moment. But it did not meet the approval of Her Majesty's Government. The Ministers then in office had

evinced a disposition to temporize with some of the men who were prominent in encouraging the revolt. Sir Francis Head's actions were of too decided a character to please his masters. Accordingly, soon after public tranquillity was restored, his Excellency was recalled. The Duke of Wellington, and other leaders of the Conservative party, warmly espoused his cause, but to no purpose. For his assumed rashness, and for refusing to be a party to attempts to conciliate the men who had secretly abetted the insurrection, Sir Francis was thenceforth made to suffer, by exclusion from any further employment in the service of the Crown. A narrative of his Administration, which he afterwards published, reveals many interesting particulars which would seem to afford ample ground for his justification. But apart from the personal question between Sir Francis Head and the Imperial Administration—as to whether he acted with becoming prudence in the execution of his delegated powers at this critical juncture—there can be no doubt as to the effect of his policy upon the people of Upper Canada. In summoning them at this crisis to rally round the old flag, and to prove the sincerity of their affection to the British Crown, he was not mistaken. The great bulk of the inhabitants heartily responded to the call. Not only was the rebellion speedily suppressed by Canadian volunteers, unaided by any Imperial soldiers, but at the next general election the disaffected party was reduced to political insignificance.

Thus far, it had been unmistakably shown that Upper Canadian loyalty was no mere passing sentiment, but a genuine and enduring principle, ready to find expression with renewed vitality and enthusiasm, whenever the necessity for its manifestation should arise.

From that period until the present, we have been happily free from the operation of disturbing influences re-