

rapidly settling neighbourhoods around them. The question of the 'Clergy reserves' was a burning one in Upper Canada through the whole of the period referred to, and helped still further to embitter the populace against the oligarchy, who stood for the Church. A staunch supporter of Family Compact rule, many of whose leading members he had personally educated, and a militant fighter for Anglican supremacy, was the able and famous Bishop Strachan of Toronto, born, strange to say, in a Scottish manse.

I had intended to limit this book absolutely to the eventful half-century it professes to deal with, and to say my last word with the peace of 1815. But effective as this seemed in the intention, in its fulfilment my last pages had an appearance of incompleteness that seemed to invite criticism. Having endeavoured to modify this, I need only remind the reader again that the Union of the two provinces in 1841, the one five-sixths French, the other wholly British, under one Parliament and Executive, even with the privilege of responsible government, proved no cure for the political ailments of Canada. It is difficult to understand how any one could have imagined it would do so. The Union was serviceable, however, in hastening that federation into which Nova Scotia alone, which was then in no political straits and quite self-satisfied, came in with any considerable measure of reluctance.

But if Canada ailed politically, knew discontent and friction within her borders, and was the despair at times of her friends within and without, the half-century following the war and terminating with Federation was, despite a few interludes, one of amazing material development. The French habitants too, in their own slower way, developed their country, though at nothing like the rate they increased their numbers. The seigniorial rights were commuted for a lump sum in 1857, and the *censitaires* turned into freeholders. But for the British, both of the Upper and Lower Province, this was, agriculturally speaking, the golden age, in which a great majority of the farming population rose