

1779, and they were communicated to the council on the 28th of January, 1780; whereupon Allsopp moved an address to the council, asking the governor to communicate any other instructions which he had received.*

The council gave no support to this motion, and voted it down by a large majority. It was regarded by many present as wanting in decency and decorum, and was even a covert attack on the governor. It was well known to members of the council, that while Livius and those who sustained him were asking for the production of Sir Guy Carleton's instructions, they were in possession of the papers.

Although this motion had been rejected, Haldimand sent a message to the council that he did not think it advisable to submit to the council any further instructions he had received, and that he would give his reasons for so acting to the king.

Caldwell moved that the question should be put, whether

* Haldimand has given us a portrait of Allsopp [B. 54, p. 384] which does not create a prejudice in his favour. He had been many years in the province, and from the earliest time had been remarkable for his bad spirit. When in 1764 the robberies at Quebec were a constant source of complaint, Murray gave an order that everybody in the streets at night should carry a lantern. It was a measure suggested for the public security, and desired by the inhabitants. Allsopp appeared in the streets with a lantern without a candle. In accordance with the regulation, he was stopped by a sentry. Allsopp commenced a suit against the man, who was convicted by a jury at the first quarter sessions. It was the commencement of the bad feeling which grew up between the military and the civilians. Allsopp had been a leading spirit in the unwarrantable presentment of the grand jury of Quebec in 1764, which declared that that body alone represented the province and that it had the right to be consulted before any ordinance passed into law; likewise making the demand that the public accounts should be submitted to its members, with other absurdities. [Ante., Vol. V., p. 154.]

He had been an opponent of the Quebec act, and had continued in his turbulence. Carleton, in the hope of quieting him, gave him the appointment of registrar and clerk to the council, a position which had been refused him by Murray. When Pownall was appointed to these positions, Allsopp ceased to enjoy them, and to indemnify him in some way for his loss, he was appointed to the council. His nomination to the position was looked upon with dissatisfaction by the friends of the government, for he was distrusted, and suspected by them of disloyalty. He was the friend and relation of men who had actively engaged in the cause of congress: of Walker, of Wells, who was Allsopp's partner, and of the Benfields, who were his brothers-in-law. Allsopp was one of those spirits of evil who always introduce discord and trouble.

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