

CHAPTER I.

Preliminary History—The Elevation of Mr. M'Kenzie, and the recall, by the Colonial Office, of His Excellency Major General Sir John Colborne.

MR. M'KENZIE, who has caused the effusion of so much British blood and money, was, it is believed, an insignificant pedlar-lad, who, about eighteen years ago, having transferred himself to America, under disreputable circumstances, succeeded in becoming the shop or errand-boy of a notorious republican at Toronto.

After living for some years in this description of society, he gradually brought himself into notice by the extraordinary talent he displayed in inventing gross falsehoods, and, as his radical associates acutely perceived that such poisonous misrepresentations flowing through the province would by degrees sicken the loyalty of those who, secluded in the backwoods, were completely dependent for political information on the local press, he was strongly encouraged to throw aside his shopman's apron, and to set up a newspaper.

With this detestable object in view, Mr. M'Kenzie's exertions for many years were really almost superhuman. Every hardship, whether of wood, wind, or