

It was in these crises that the Assembly showed its ignorance of constitutional form. Instead of arrogantly claiming to monopolize all power of action, its efforts should have been directed towards inducing the Legislative Council to participate in a joint address.

Opposition to this step on the part of the Council was to be foreseen, an opposition possibly extending over three or four years. But eventually the justice of the claim would have entailed its success. The Home Government never had but one thought towards Canada that of establishing a prosperous and happy community; and, if occasion had exacted it, it would specially have sent a Governor delegated to consummate this policy. The impractical character of the French Canadian politician of that day, interfered with any such line of conduct. When we judge these men, by the light of their countrymen in the present Dominion Parliament, it seems unaccountable, they so ill understand the reform they could constitutionally advocate. Lafontaine and Morin of the last generation, thoroughly knew the precise policy to follow; and men like the late Sir G. Cartier, or Mr. Dorion, Mr. Langevin and Mr. Cauchon of the present race of politicians, could never commit the blunders of sixty years since.

The address was voted and presented to the governor, requesting him to lay it before His Majesty's Ministers for transmission to King, Lords and Commons. But the Governor refused to receive it, on the constitutional ground that all grants of money should, in the first instance, come in the form of a recommendation from the Crown, and that although such grants originate in the Lower House, they were invalid without the vote of the other branches of the Legislature. He further pointed out that the course was unusual, indeed without precedent, for a single branch of the legislature to address in any form either of the Imperial Houses of Parliament; that His Majesty's Ministers were not the medium of communication with the House of Commons; and that without the Royal command, it was beyond his duty to place any such address in their hands for the purpose named. However, as a testimony of the good intentions of His Canadian subjects, he would