

were engaged in trade and peltry, but many of these were half-breeds.

Of Upper Canada, Judge Pringle speaks thus in his new volume "*Lunenburg, or the old Eastern District*," "prior to the year 1784 that part of the old Province of Quebec called Upper Canada, and now Ontario, was an almost unbroken wilderness. The French had extended their settlements up by what is now the line between the Province of Quebec and Ontario, but had not pushed them further West. At an early period of their occupation of Canada they had explored the rivers St. Lawrence and Ottawa, navigated the great Lakes, visited many parts of the North-West, and established military and trading posts, at Frontenac (now Kingston), the mouth of the Niagara River, Detroit, and other points. Their priests, active and energetic in their holy vocation, had gone far into the country, carrying religious instruction to the natives, and in too many instances sacrificing their lives in their endeavour to benefit and civilize the Indians."

The names of many rapids, headlands and islands still testify to the extent of the French explorations, but it was not until 1784 that the permanent settlement and occupation of Upper Canada began. In that year about 10,000 persons were placed along the northern shores of the River St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Nearly all of them were U. E. Loyalists, driven from their homes in the thirteen colonies, and most of the men, old enough to bear arms, had served in the corps raised for the King during the Revolutionary War.

With the characteristic generosity of the British people towards the conquered, the Canadians, as the French population of Quebec were called, were granted full civil and religious liberty. The *Coutume de Paris* still remained their legal use, and their language was assured to them in all public documents. Only in so far as the proper rights of the British Crown were menaced were any changes made, and, to their credit be it said, the Church acknowledged the beneficence of the new rulers by inculcating a patriotic and obedient service in return for these large concessions from Britain.

But it was not to be expected that when a British population began to settle in the west of the province, it would be willing to be governed by French laws or ideas, therefore after some years of stress and strain on the part of both neighbours,

it was found necessary to give the British, who certainly had a preferential claim on their own government, a Constitution of their own, erected on British lines. Thus it came to pass that the Bill for the Separation of the Province of Quebec into the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, was brought before the Home Parliament and passed.

It must not, however, be supposed that the Government set up in the wilds of a new land could at first find its full development. The means for the application of its details did not exist. There were no Counties to send representatives to Parliament, no Towns to furnish municipal powers, Judges there were, but no Juries. And, therefore, it was necessary to furnish the Governor with plenary powers to administer in every particular in which authority might be called upon to enforce law and order. Such rule is called military rule, because the chief officer holds his commission from the King, and all other officers look to him for orders.

Nevertheless the Constitution of Upper Canada was "the image and transcript of the British Constitution," only it lacked development. The action of the First Parliament was at once taken in this direction, as will be seen from its Acts as will be hereafter presented.

From the "Canadian Archives Report for 1891," a most valuable volume with regard to Upper Canada, we learn on the indisputable authority such records furnish, page 7. Letter from Lieut.-Gov. Alured Clarke to Mr. Henry Dundas, British Secretary for the Colonies, date Nov. 12, 1791, "Lieut.-Colonel Simcoe had arrived at Quebec on board the "Triton" on the previous day. Had received by him a new commission of Lieut. Governor of Lower Canada, and despatches addressed to Lord Dorchester, with a copy of the new Act for the government of the country, authority to fix the time when it shall come into force, with order for dividing the Province" (Quebec) "instructions and commissions." It will thus be seen, as indeed was to have been supposed, that the setting off of Upper Canada as a distinct Province affected the one left. There were now two Lieut.-Governors and a Governor-General, or as he was then styled a Commander-(sometimes Governor) in-Chief. This latter was Lord Dorchester, whom we know better as Sir Guy Carleton, and thus it was that his commission as supe-