

Canadians with that great republic, whose population shook off our yoke, and now enjoy a high degree of liberty and prosperity, we shall hardly be surprised if the French Canadians have become disgusted with British domination, and are longing to form an independent republic.

The dissensions between the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council in Lower Canada began about the year 1820. The Canadians soon after sent a great number of Petitions to the British Parliament, complaining of grievances and praying redress; and in 1828 a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed, whose report showed that many of the complaints were well founded. Attempts were made to redress the grievances, but with the feebleness and inefficiency which generally characterise the efforts of a government at home to reform the administration of a distant colony. The House of Assembly, under the violent guidance of M. l'apineau and others, became impatient of the continual thwarting of the Governor and the Council. The Canadians were not oppressed; they paid no taxes; they enjoyed civil and religious liberty; they had almost the monopoly of the British market for their timber. But they were governed by those who had no sympathy with them: they were tantalized by having a House of Assembly, with free discussion, but without power: they complained that improper and corrupt persons were appointed judges: the House of Assembly claimed a right to appropriate to the public service, according to its own discretion, the whole of the revenues of the crown accruing within the province, including those produced by the sale of timber and waste lands, all fines and forfeitures, and the income from seigniorial rights; and the resistance of these claims by the Council irritated the House of Assembly and their constituents. The grant of lands by the British Parliament to the Canadian Company and the North American Land Company was also complained of by the Assembly, "as an unnecessary interference with the authority of the local legislature over the internal affairs of the province."

At length, still advancing in their claims as they experienced opposition, the House of Assembly petitioned the British Parliament for a great change in the constitution, by which the Legislative Council should be made elective, like the Senate of the United States, and the Executive Council should be made responsible to the Legislature. This, as we have before said, was equivalent to a claim of independence, as it would have left the Queen no power in the province, but to appoint a Governor, and to maintain and pay the troops; and it is certain that if the mother country had consented to this mere nominal sovereignty, involving a heavy expense without power or profit, the Colonists would soon themselves have snapped the slender thread of connexion.

Whether the House of Assembly contemplated *independence* in this claim we know not; it is clear they wanted the power of *self-government*; and so determined were they to have it, that in 1833 they exercised their constitutional power of stopping the supplies, declaring that they would grant no more money until an Elective Council was conceded to them. From that time forward the House of Assembly has acted upon this determination: no money has been granted; and the judges and officers of Government have been for more than four years without their salaries. A government commission of three individuals, with Lord Gosford at its head, was sent out in 1835 to inquire into the complaints of the Canadians; but the Assembly denounced it as an unconstitutional interference, and the reports and recommendations of the Commissioners differed from each other widely. Some reforms were made in the composition of the Council, but they were quite unsatisfactory to the Canadians, who continued to refuse the supplies. This state of things led the British Parliament to pass an Act last session empowering the Government to take money out of the colonial exchequer for paying the salaries, without the sanction of the House of Assembly. And this Act has so alarmed and provoked the Canadians, that they have now organized, armed, and disciplined themselves,—have assembled over the whole country and declared their independence—and are now in general revolt against the Government.

If asked whether we think the grievances of the Canadians are real, we reply that we think some of them are real,—and that we consider the Government there is not, and never can be made satisfactory to the Canadians, without destroying all real controul on the part of the Mother Country. But the practical and important