

irritation died away and the principles which were laid down by the British North American League in 1850 are the lines on which the Liberal (conservative party has moved ever since."

The second view is that of his Liberal opponent, the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, who presents the League in a most unfavorable light.

"The Montreal disturbances ultimately gave birth to a new organization under the name of the British North American League. The Association was a queer mixture of Tories and Annexationists and comprised all the disappointed items. Like King David's famous army at the cave of Adullam, "Every one that was in distress and every one that was discontented gathered themselves" to the meetings of the League. The *Globe* and Liberal Journals generally greeted the new political mongrel with a storm of ridicule. They were dubbed 'Children of the Snm.' After one brief attempt to effect something by their meeting at Kingston, the concern collapsed from the sheer rottenness of its material. They advocated extreme Toryism and extreme disloyalty and finally threatened to drive the French into the sea."

The British North American League.—The grant of responsible government proved the undoing of the Tory party. For many years, the Tories had considered themselves the only loyal party; and they believed that they had merited by their loyalty the favor of the successive governors of the colony and the staunch support of the Colonial Office. But the old order of things had passed away. The day of special privileges in church and state was over. The free spirit of democracy was abroad throughout the land. New principles of social and political liberty were in the ascendency. In the election of 1848, the Tory party went down to a crushing defeat, but fighting bitterly to the end. They could not easily reconcile themselves to the new experience of seeing their disloyal opponents seated on the Treasury bench and monopolizing the places of honor and profit under the Crown. In the bitterness of defeat they took up the cry of French domination and carried the flaming torch of racial and religious hatred throughout the Province. The aftermath of this dangerous agitation, the assault on the Governor General and the burning of the parliament buildings at Montreal, completed the discomfiture of the party. For the moment, the party seemed on the verge of dissolution. The Tory leaders were not equal to the situation; they could neither control the wayward course of their erstwhile supporters, nor formulate a new political program. The rank and file of the party, refusing to fore swear their political principles, wandered around in aimless confusion without an accredited leader or policy. An extreme section of the party, embittered by the series of humiliations they had received from the local and British governments and discouraged as to the future of the country, fore swore their allegiance to the Crown and entered upon an active campaign for annexation to the neighboring Republic. A more moderate group, however, undertook to reorganize the party on a more popular basis and were even ready to adopt some of the democratic principles of their political opponents.