

by a committee of the house of commons in 1828, known as, the report of the Canada Committee, accelerating still greater mischiefs upon the inhabitants of the two Canadas than the grievances, it no doubt was, in the best faith possible, intended to redress.—And, *fourthly* and finally—from 1828, when the “conciliatory” scheme, in pursuance of “the report,” came into action, until as anticipated, its perfect abortion, in 1837, by the formal repudiation of the constitution, on the part of the representative body, and the rebellions in various parts of the province, in that and the following year, in connection with its pretensions, and stimulated by its example and doctrines; events in themselves to be deplored, and which brought on, in 1840, the act of reunion, merging the two provinces into one, the province of Canada, as a remedy, whether the right one or not remains to be seen.

The idea of an elective legislative council, it may here be observed, was first started by Mr. Fox, in the discussion of the constitutional act, for the Canadas, in 1791, but without effect, as alien to the british constitution. From this we hear no more of it, till 1828, when Mr. Neilson, one of the bearers of the petition of the pretended 87,000, on canadian grievances, praying, among other things, that the constitution be preserved “*intacte*,” on his examination before the committee to whom the petition was referred, revived the idea, but did not recommend it, as to his prejudice is generally understood to have been the case. The defective composition of the legislative council, was one of the subjects complained of in the petition. On being questioned by the committee, as to the amend-