

THE CANADIAN REVOLT :

A SHORT REVIEW OF ITS CAUSES, PROGRESS, AND PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES.

It is now pretty generally admitted that this wanton and wicked rebellion was alike unforeseen and unprovided for, both by the local and the metropolitan Governments; and although it may not have required the subtle spirit of a Fouché to fathom the conspiracy, it is but justice towards these authorities to state that until blood had actually been shed, very many of the best-informed men in the colony believed that not all the influence of Papineau and his colleagues—however irresistible on the hustings, and dominant in the senate—would suffice to rouse his torpid and timid countrymen into armed resistance to the Queen's authority: and yet no doubt is now entertained of the existence—for months previous to any overt act of resistance to the laws—of an extensive, if not a general system of organization, for the avowed object of intimidating the Government into an unconditional compliance with the wishes and demands of the leaders of the "mouvement;" and, finally, if deemed expedient, of overthrowing the Regal Government, and erecting a Republic on its ruins.

There is something so Quixotic in the very idea of a systematic and deliberate trial of strength between the scattered and scanty population of Lower Canada and the colossal power of Great Britain, aided by the great bulk of the British inhabitants of North America, that nothing less than the evidence that late events have furnished could have persuaded us that a race of men were to have been found so insensate and enslaved to the will of a mad and mendacious demagogue, as to rush from the enjoyment of social happiness and the most perfect civil liberty into a blind contest with a parent state, which, step-children as they were, had governed them with lenity and justice, and treated them with kindness and affection: in more instances than one at the expense too of her own legitimate offspring. One would naturally conclude that some sudden and grievous wrongs had driven a people so situated to desperation, and plunged them headlong into the revolting struggle! Yet nothing would be further from the truth than this conjecture, for the habitants of Lower Canada never had a voice in the fearful question, propounded and resolved on in the secret councils of their chiefs. Clanish, credulous, and confiding, grossly ignorant of their political condition, as of the nature and tendency of the changes which were sought for, they implicitly obeyed the mandates of the dark and ruthless traitor to whom they had committed the destinies of their unhappy country.

To the chiefs of the revolt it must be owned that the contest may not have appeared to be of so desperate a character as we have represented it. They had still something to gain: they may have hoped by intimidation from the trimming policy and compliant temper of the Government: they saw the country left to the defence of a very small and widely-dispersed body of troops: they had much to expect from the effects of radical sympathy in England, France, and the United States; and with the democrats of the latter countries they were certainly in communication; and might reasonably expect to find, as they