

of preventing a dissolution of civil society in Lower Canada. This determination served to unmask the whole of the projects of the Assembly and its partisans. Thwarted in their legislative capacity, and finding that they could no longer impose upon the credulity of the British Government or Parliament, they had recourse, for the furtherance of their revolutionary designs, to plebeian patronage and popular agitation. They broke out into open rebellion against the Queen's authority in Canada, and that feeling of hostility against the British Crown, which they had nurtured in their bosoms since the Conquest, which they had manifested during the stormy administrations of Sir James Henry Craig and Lord Dalhousie, and which they have shown ever since, became clear and apparent to the most careless observer. It was not a rebellion against the British Government, for infringing on any abstract principal of human rights, it was not a war, which was waged for the redress of what might be considered any real oppression or grievance ; it was a war of races, begun and carried on for supremacy over their rivals. In its incipient stages, it was marked by a degree of ferocity and blood-thirstiness, which never even characterized the wars of England between the rival factions of York and Lancaster. No sooner had the "sons of Liberty," as the French Canadian rebels called themselves, assembled in the early part of October, 1837, than they hoisted the tri-colored flag and issued an "address to the young men of the North American Colonies," containing sentiments well calculated to arouse the fears of every peaceful subject in the Province; and it was the constant endeavour of the whole of these illegal associations to