

lost their all. Some went to Nova Scotia, some to New Brunswick, and others to Canada, where they were given, in compensation for their losses, grants of wild land, and other encouragement in the way of petty public offices. These Americans were subsequently distinguished by the name of "U. E. Loyalists"—that is, "United Empire Loyalists."

A few years after, —in 1791,—an act was passed by the British Parliament dividing the Canadas into two provinces and conferring on each a quasi-constitutional government, under the names of "Lower" and "Upper" Canada.

The ministers of the day seem to have run in the old groove, and to have learned nothing from American history. Blind to the palpable fact, which a seven years' war and an inglorious peace ought to have impressed on their minds, that the Constitutions of the old American colonies had not only not prevented, but to some extent actually helped to produce, a rebellion, they copied the Canadian constitution almost literally from that of the colony of New York, and gave Upper Canada a Governor, a Council possessing Executive and Legislative powers, and a House of Assembly.

The British Cabinet through the Colonial minister appointed the Governor, and the members of the Council. The Assembly was elected by the freeholders. Thus the Canadian legislature consisted ostensibly of three branches, but in fact of only two; for the members of the Executive Council, who were the advisers of the Governor, held seats also in the Legislative Council, or Upper House, where were also to be seen the Chief Justice, the Superintendent of the Indian Department, the Receiver General, Inspector General of Accounts, and the Surveyor General, who in one chamber made the laws, and only such as pleased them; for if the acts interfered with their interests, they as the Executive Council advised the Governor to veto them, and he almost invariably complied with their advice.

In this connection it is to be borne in mind that the whole of the public lands in Canada, the Clergy Reserves excepted, were at the disposal of the Executive Council, and thus formed an inexhaustible fund to bribe and buy up at any time a majority of the House of Assembly, which body numbered at first twenty-five, and subsequently about fifty, members. Add to this that the entire patronage of the province was in fact in the hands and at the disposal of the Council, who appointed every officer from Chief Justice down to tide waiters —Judges, Crown Lawyers, Surrogates, Sheriffs, Magistrates, Officers of Militia, Returning Officers of Election, Heads and Clerks of the several departments,—all were named by, and held their offices during the will and pleasure of, the Executive. Eventually, this class, or the more influential among them, constituted a ruling oligarchy, who to concentrate their power and preserve their lucrative places and patronage formed alliances by intermarriage within their own exclusive circle, and became known throughout the length and breadth of Canada as "*The Family Compact*." So great became the power of this combination, that it absolutely ruled the Lieutenant-Governor for the time being, controlled every department of the government, and obeyed or disobeyed the commands of the Colonial Office, as they accorded with the views or conflicted with the interests of the "Family."