

Council, relative to powers which are essential to be possessed by the latter, through the very nature of representative institutions." The report proposed the union of the provinces in order to restore the balance of power between the French and English races, and to remove the commercial difficulties between Upper and Lower Canada. In anticipation of subsequent political events, it suggested a legislative union of all the colonies, and the construction of an intercolonial road as a line between them. Although bitterly attacked by the friends of the irresponsible colonial Governments, it greatly influenced the Home authorities, and encouraged the advocates of constitutional reform in the colonies.

Mr. Dent's history opens in this picturesque manner with an account of the death of Lord Durham and a judicious estimate of his character:—

"One day, towards the end of the month of July, 1840, an English nobleman lay dying at Cowes, in the Isle of Wight. It had long been evident to those about him that his days were numbered. He came of an energetic, yet withal a somewhat short-lived race, and had inherited a feeble constitution, combined with a soaring, but capricious ambition, an irritable temper, a morbid egotism, and a fondness for hard work. He had from his boyhood suffered from an ungovernable tendency to fretfulness and worry, and an utter incapacity for possessing his soul in patience whenever his too susceptible nature was wounded. These incongruous conditions had brought about their legitimate results, and the Right Honourable John George Lambton, first Earl of Durham, lay racked with pain of mind and body, with the sands of his life rapidly running out. . . . His vital forces were exhausted. His petulance—for his lordship *was* petulant, and had, as has been intimated, a high temper of his own—was never again to disturb the peace of mind of his august father-in-law, nor even of his personal attendants. He never regained sufficient vigour even to berate his valet. On the 26th of the month his physician-in-chief was summoned for the last time, and gave it as his opinion that his lordship would not live to see the light of another day. 'Then,' said the dying man, with playful melancholy, 'the legend is true, and I shall not die at Lambton.' After a pause, he added in a faint voice, 'I would fain hope I have not lived altogether in vain. Whatever the