

for I am vain enough to believe that I did not come worsted out of the encounter. The incident may possibly afford an opportunity for writing some poor conceit, and then complacently calling it an "historic fancy."

The conduct of Lord John Russell on the question was, however, a very different proceeding. He could not have been ignorant of the fact, that our American Colonies, now forming the United States of America, had Agents in this country, representing the popular branch of their separate Legislatures. He also well knew that Mr Burke was among the latest of these Agents, as he was indeed the most celebrated of them. I leave it for his panegyrists to explain why, under such circumstances, he moved the previous question upon Sir John Hanmer's motion (in 1836) respecting myself acting as Agent of the Assembly of Lower Canada in place of meeting it with a direct negative.

The House of Assembly of Lower Canada had long desired to concur with the Legislative Council in appointing an Agent, and they proposed Sir James Macintosh. Sir James was, however, far too liberal to suit the fancy of the close corporation called the Legislative Council, and the attempt of appointing a joint Agent failed. At length the Assembly determined to appoint a person who should represent themselves alone, and they did me the honour of selecting me for that honourable office. To this office they attached a salary; and I did not conceive that I was precluded from accepting their offer because I was a member of the House of Commons. So soon as it became necessary to communicate with the Home Government, I wrote to Lord Glenelg, requesting that I might be permitted to wait on him in the character of Agent of the House of Assembly. To this application I received for answer, that Lord Glenelg would willingly see me, because I proposed to be received as Agent only of the House of Assembly, and not as the Agent of the province. From time to time I trans-