

presence and assented to five bills of little moment. In a speech, perhaps only to be equalled by that of Cromwell, he announced his intention of dissolving the Assembly. He told them that in the place of promoting harmony, they had wasted their time in frivolous debates, and that they had abused their functions; that they had neglected matters of necessity; that they had been intemperate and had acted detrimentally to the best interests of the country. He thanked the Legislative Council for their unanimity, zeal and unremitting attention; and likewise extended his thanks to a considerable portion of the House of Assembly, and he stated that it was his intention to call a new Provincial Parliament. So extraordinary a dismissal could not fail but to create strong feelings, and to cause important results. The Canadian party, hitherto somewhat divided, were, by this violent proceeding, driven into the unity which has kept them together in such compact form to this hour, and from which however surely, in the present position of parties, they are but slowly disintegrating. The emergencies of modern politics are so different to the sentiment that has hitherto led them to sink minor differences, that they are now somewhat resolving themselves into different spheres of opinion. That they have not hitherto done so, is greatly owing to the extreme conduct of Craig at this period, which led them to recognize the necessity of an unswerving party allegiance. A new Assembly was elected more hostile than ever to the Government. It met in January, 1810. Craig was somewhat more politic than before. He expressed his readiness in His Majesty's name to assent to a bill making judges ineligible for Parliament. But the Governor's unfortunate verbosity grated on the Assembly, and the first resolution carried, declared all interference with the functions of the House a breach of privilege. The House then proceeded to take up the Civil List, advancing the right to remodel and to vote the supply, at the same time offering to meet the whole cost of expenditure. Acknowledging the beneficence of the mother country, the House of Assembly expressed its readiness to relieve her of future cost, and as in the Imperial Parliament, to vote the estimates, and to impose the taxes necessary to defray them.