

dividing the British possessions into Upper and Lower Canada. "I hope," he said on doing so, "this separation will put an end to the competition between the old French inhabitants and the new settlers from Britain and the British colonies." The Act of 1791 divided Quebec, as the whole of Canada was then called, into Upper and Lower Canada, conceded a Parliament for each province consisting of a Legislative Council appointed by the Crown and an Assembly elected by the people. It was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the people of Lower Canada—the City of Quebec being illuminated as a mark of public appreciation. Approval was further expressed in the reply of the Assembly to the speech made by His Excellency at the opening of the first Parliament: "We cannot express the emotions which arose in our breasts on that ever memorable day when we entered upon the enjoyment of a constitution assimilated to that form of government which has carried the glory of our mother country to the highest elevation."

In Upper Canada the Constitutional Act was also received with great favour. The population was very small, not exceeding 25,000, composed largely of United Empire Loyalists, who naturally welcomed a constitution that in the words of Governor Simcoe, was declared to be "the very image and transcript of the British Constitution."

Although the Act of 1791 was apparently a deed of separation between the two races, its administration ultimately led to union and co-operation. The partnership begun on the Plains of Abraham and confirmed and expanded by the Quebec Act had lasted only thirty-two years. Would government by disunion be any better? We shall see. The people thought that the Act of 1791 placed the government of the country in their hands. Not so. Both Upper and Lower Canada soon found that the Governor-General and his Ministers did not feel themselves bound to regard the views of the people's representatives or to dispense the patronage of the government with their consent or advice. In Lower Canada this interference led to a rebellion under Papineau, and in Upper Canada under Wm. Lyon MacKenzie.

It was evident then that government by disunion was not the remedy for Canadian ills. Even Pitt, great as was his statesmanship, could make a mistake, and so after an experience of fifty years of the separation of the two races in different parliaments, the British government, on the advice of Lord Durham, passed the Union Act of 1841, whereby the partnership which was all but dissolved in 1791 was re-formed, and once more the representatives of the French Canadians