

speaker. His Lordship deprived him at the same time of his commission as *captain in the militia!* To make some amends for this *little* tyranny, Mr. Papineau was afterwards promoted to a majority, but this last commission he flung, in a manner in Lord Gosford's face last year, when this nobleman had the "impertinence" to demand of Mr. Papineau reasons for attending a public meeting!

In 1831, Mr. Papineau finding it hopeless to expect a reform of abuses in detail, attacked what Lord Stanley declared to be "the root of all the evil," and demanded the introduction of the elective principle into the constitution of Lower Canada. That year the house resolved that the members of the legislative council ought to be elected by the people, in the same manner as are the senators of this state. This demand was resisted by the British government, in consequence of which, the assembly drew up in 1834, the famous 92 resolutions, (of which it is understood, Mr. Papineau was for the most part the author,) and stopt the supplies.

The demand for elective institutions, arrived now to such a height, that the ministry thought it necessary to endeavor to cajole the Canadians into an abandonment of their position, and of their money. A "royal" commission, of which Lord Gosford was the imbecile head, was sent to Canada in 1835. This commission was not long in the country, when it was discovered that like the old 'Howe commission' of 1776, it was meant merely to deceive. Mr. Papineau denounced it accordingly, in the most indignant terms. It was in the course of the debate on the state of the province in 1836, that while advocating the introduction of the elective principle, he declared that "not only were republican institutions to prevail throughout the whole of this continent, but America was designed to furnish, at some future day, republics to Europe."

The royal commission having reported unfavorably on the various demands of the Canadian assembly, the British Parliament passed, in 1837, a series of resolutions, by one of which, they determined to vote away the money collected in the Province, the right to dispose of which, belonged to the representatives of the Province *alone*, by law, common sense, and the constitution.

The passage of this resolution, which, like the stamp act and tea tax, violated all principles of freedom, caused great indignation throughout the Province. Lord Gosford himself, who originally recommended the step, was "constrained to admit, that the feeling against the Imperial Parlia-

ment, authorizing the taking of the money out of the chest, is very strong." In such a crisis, all eyes were turned on Mr. Papineau. He came forward in consequence, and recommended the people to abstain every where from the use of taxed articles; to encourage domestic manufactures, and *free* trade with these states; to withdraw all confidence from the government, and those who held office under it, and finally to *elect* their own justices of the peace, and militia officers. Mr. Papineau, warm with the love of country, went in person from county to county, from one extremity of the Province to the other, preaching a crusade against the liberticide measures of the British ministry, and rousing the dormant energies of the people, into a constitutional opposition. The government affected at first to sneer at the proceedings of the people. Lord Gosford writing to the minister in May 1837, described these public meetings as "complete failures." In July he wrote that Mr. P. "was losing ground." A few months afterwards, however, he was forced to open his eyes to his error. The non consumption and non intercourse war was waged with such rigid perseverance, that a serious falling off soon became perceptible in the public revenue, and those who held commissions under the Crown resigned *by counties*. The man who but a short while before was said to be "losing ground," was now denounced by the very governor who before affected to despise his influence. He was accused in despatches to the British minister, as wishing to effect "a separation of the Province from England, and the establishment of a republican form of government," and Lord Gosford, in despair, wrote as follows to the Colonial Secretary in September: "We can now make no terms with Mr. Papineau. You must either put him down, or submit to let him put you down. There is no halting between two opinions." To crown the perfidy with which this nobleman had always acted towards the Canadian people, he recommended in the following month, (six weeks before any collision occurred) the annihilation of the Canadian constitution! Writing on the 12th October, this Castlereagh of Canada says: "The only practical course now open for conducting the affairs of the province, with any benefit to the inhabitants generally, is *at once to suspend the present constitution.*"

Shortly after having recommended this aggression on the rights of a whole people, Lord Gosford prepared to wreak vengeance on the man who had presumed to sound the tocsin of alarm, and to awaken his countrymen to the deep and damning