

the address voted by this House on 24th December last to His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief." Mr. Coffin moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Bowen, to leave out all words after "that," and insert "the messengers be discharged from presenting the said message." Mr. Joseph Papineau moved, seconded by Mr. Debartsch, that the consideration of the main question and of the question in amendment be adjourned, and this motion was carried by sixteen votes to thirteen. No further action was taken. Joseph Papineau's conduct in this matter seems to have been perfectly straightforward and consistent, and nothing but his great personal influence and tact could have possibly averted another conflict with the Governor-General and a dissolution of the Assembly.

The Alien Act and the Act for the prevention of seditious practices recommended by the Governor-General were first introduced in the Legislative Council, by which they were promptly passed without discussion and transmitted to the Assembly. A new clause had been inserted in the latter Act, providing that no member of the Legislature should be imprisoned during a session unless the cause of his arrest had been previously made known to the House and its consent obtained. The opposition lacked the courage to resist this measure and it was passed without a division, although they had declared within twenty-four hours that it was "a subject of much apprehension in the province and required their most serious consideration." Dissensions soon arose in their ranks. They quarrelled bitterly amongst themselves and several of the strongest opponents of the Government returned to their homes in great disappointment before the session concluded. The behaviour of the remainder towards the English members became decidedly more friendly and even cordial.

"It has been observed," said Craig, "that their manner and deportment towards the English party has been in general very different this session from what it was during the two or three last meetings. Some few, however, of the most violent continued to observe the same distance, and among themselves the usual scenes of extravagance and indecorum have occurred even so far as to afford the spectacle of one member pursuing another around the Salle."¹

After the prorogation of the Legislature the Governor-General's health failed so much that he determined to return to England by the first opportunity without waiting for permission. On June 19th, 1811, he accordingly embarked on the frigate *Amelia* amid the strongest expressions of esteem from the English population of Quebec, and the ad-

¹ Craig to Liverpool, 28th March, 1811, Canadian Archives, Q. 114, p. 12.