

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS OF CANADA

MEMORIALS OF THE SERVOS FAMILY

(BY WILLIAM KIRBY, F.R.S.C.)

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The existence at the present time of two great distinct political confederacies in North America, the United States and the Dominion of Canada, is primarily owing to the long continuous movements of two opposing sections or parties of the English people in the land of our common ancestors; the party of monarchical and the party of republican tendencies, divisions which seem to be inherent in human nature itself.

The Revolution of 1642 was the culmination of Puritan ascendancy in England, the reaction restored the royal authority in the Constitution. The distinct party lines of English politics take their modern form and under various names have come down to us from that time to the present. It will be found that those party struggles in the motherland furnish the key that unlocks the secret of British-Canadian politics, principles, and tendencies—as distinct from the politics, principles, and tendencies of the United States—differences which perpetuate the division of North America into two distinct and rival, but not, it is hoped, unfriendly nations.

To understand the true genius and origin of the English-speaking people in Canada we have to go back to the settlement of the New England Colonies by the thwarted and, to some extent, persecuted Puritans of the seventeenth century. They left their native land, full of bitterness, with no love for either its Church or monarchy. The English Commonwealth had been their ideal of civil government, and from the very first settlement of the Puritans in Massachusetts their steady endeavor and policy was to separate themselves from the mother country