

Colonial Office, and could manage its affairs better than the appointees of the Crown, who had become grasping and arrogant. They began to discuss the question. A strong feeling pervaded the minds of many of the leading men of the day that a radical change was necessary for the well-being of the country, and they commenced to apply the lever of public opinion to the great fulcrum of agitation, in order to overturn the evils that had crept into the administration of public affairs. They demanded a government which should be responsible to the people, and not independent of them. They urged that the system of representation was unjust and should be equalized. They assailed the party in power as being corrupt, and applied to them the epithet of the 'Family Compact'—a name which has clung to them ever since, because they held every office of emolument and dispensed the patronage to friends, to the exclusion of every man outside of its pale. Another grievance which began to be talked about, and remained a bone of contention for years, was the large grants of lands for the support of the Church of England. As the majority of the people did not belong to that body, they could not see why it should be taken under the protecting care of the State, while every other denomination was left in the cold; hence a clamour for the secularization of the Clergy Reserves began to be heard throughout the land. These with many other questions, which were termed abuses, raised up a political party that came to be known as Radicals, and later was stigmatized by the opposing party as Rebels. The party lines between these two sides were soon sharply drawn, and when the House met at York, early in January, 1830, it was discovered that a breach existed between the Executive Council and the House of Assembly, which could not be closed up until sweeping changes had been effected.

The Province at this time was di-

vided into eleven districts, or twenty-six counties, which returned forty-one members to the House, and the towns of York, Kingston, Brockville and Niagara one member each, making in all forty five representatives, but of these four were selected for the Executive Council. Obedient to the command of the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Colborne, the members of the different constituencies were finding their way with sleighs (the only means of conveyance in those days) through woods and snow drifts on the first of the year to the Capital Town of York. The Province had not yet reached the dignity of possessing a city, and indeed the only towns were the four we have named of which Kingston was the largest and most important. It had a population of 3,635, and York 2,860. A member from Winnipeg could reach Ottawa quicker and with much more comfort now than York could be reached from the Eastern and Western limits of the Province in those days.*

Marshal Spring Bidwell was Speaker, and the following formed the Executive Council:—J. Carey, Inspector-General; John H. Dunn, Receiver-General; Henry John Boulton, Attorney-General; and Christopher A. Hagerman, Solicitor-General. On the opening of the House, the address was

* Fancy such announcement as the following, appearing in our newspapers in these days, prior to the opening of the House of Assembly:—

'To the proprietors and editors of the different papers in the Eastern part of the Province. Gentlemen: Presuming that the public will desire to be put in possession of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, at the approaching Session of Parliament at an early date, and feeling desirous to gratify a public to which we are so much indebted, we shall make arrangements for having it delivered, free of expense, at Kingston, the day after it is issued from the press at York, that it may be forwarded to Montreal by mail on the Monday following.

'We are gentlemen,

'Your obedient servants,

'H. NORTON & Co., Kingston.

'W. WELLER, York.

'*Christian Guardian*, January 2nd, 1830.'