

with Papineau, who was also at this time hovering about the frontier.

Although he refused to agree to Durham's wishes in this matter, he professed himself willing to give advice, but only openly, as "secrecy was foreign to his nature." We can imagine the scene—Roebuck pouring out a flood of theoretical propositions as to the way in which the Canadians should be given all they wanted, and at the same time the power of the Crown secured. Durham listened politely and then asked Roebuck if he would put his views on paper. Durham had found the weak point in his opponent's armour—his desire to secure his recognition as Agent for Lower Canada, which had hitherto been withheld by the Imperial Government. From other sources it seems likely that Roebuck assured Durham of a favourable reception from the French in Canada, contingent on his following out the Agent's recommendations. Roebuck went home and drew up a document which is worthy of a short description. At his request Durham only retained a copy. Roebuck says that Durham gave him the strongest assurance of his most sincere approval of the scheme; and it is certain that it was a scheme closely modelled on this that Durham tried to carry out in Canada. His realisation of the actual wishes of the colonists, and a certain practical sagacity which taught him to prefer the expedient to the desirable, went to produce the imperfect scheme he finally proposed.

Roebuck's plan was based on two premises—that the extent of the proposed reforms should only be limited by the extent to which the Imperial Parliament would go; and that the supremacy of England and the well-being of the colony are perfectly compatible. Its objects were to evolve a Government capable of producing contentment and happiness, and also a scheme for federating British North America. These two are interdependent. Roebuck's scheme seems to have been really the result of much thought on his part. The idea of federation, however, was not