

representatives of the people, prior to the union, in either of the Provinces, to procure the establishment of municipal institutions. 3. In the report of the Earl of Durham, who was sent to Canada in 1838, as a High Commissioner, to inquire into the political institutions of the two Provinces, and to suggest remedies for the existing dissatisfaction, the establishment of municipal institutions was strongly recommended; and when Mr. Poulett Thompson (afterwards Lord Sydenham) was appointed Lord Durham's successor, in order to carry out his Lordship's recommendations that the Provinces should be united, he advised that provision should be made in the Act of Union for establishing municipal institutions. 4. So strong was the aversion at that time on the part of the people of Lower Canada to local taxation, that when the Municipal Council clauses were struck out of the bill for uniting the Provinces which was sent to England by Governor-General Thompson, it was deemed essential by that statesman to procure the enactment by the Special Council of an ordinance establishing those institutions in Lower Canada. It was, moreover, deemed expedient, in order to insure the practical working of the system, that the various executive officers, such as the Warden, Treasurer, and Clerk, should be appointed by the Governor, because it was apprehended that, if those officers were made elective, the ordinance would be a dead letter.

5. When the united Parliament met in 1841, the Government was most anxious, not only to extend the municipal system to Upper Canada, but also to procure the assent of an elected House of Assembly to the system which had been established in Lower Canada by an ordinance of the Special Council. The difficulties of the situation were very great. The first session of