

environment of decaying Puritanism, Bradford had lived with his books and his theories, and here he might have lived and died as harmless an idealist as ever uncrowned shadowy kings, had he not been influenced by another personality. The individual referred to was one of the stormy petrels of those times, and in a small way, the forerunner of a far greater, a more sincere, and yet as unfortunate a man, William Lyon McKenzie.

This man's name was Henry Struthers; and as this is rather the drama of a few lives than a history of the period, it will be merely necessary to paint his character in a few words. He was an enthusiast, and an orator of a sort; his enemies called him a quarrelsome demagogue. But he was something more, and he might have become of value to the community had he not come under the sinister influence of Joseph Wilcocks, a man who had for years been sowing systematically the seeds of dissension and rebellion. Struthers was, in his way, a strong and restless character, who with personal ambitions, saw clearly what he could not cure; something which, sad to say, ever exists in this imperfect world, and especially on this continent of new communities and rude conditions; a system in state and country, whereby a few men were aggrandized at the expense of the whole community. This condition of things, which they exaggerated in the minds of the people, gave Wilcocks and his associates a lever for their agitation for a change; and this change was nothing less than the bringing of Canada under the rule of the American Republic.