

mold. His visit to Canada marks an era in the government of colonies. He travelled extensively throughout the provinces, seeking information from high and low, from the governed as well as the governing class. The few months he spent here were so full of varied activity, that when he was somewhat abruptly called home, he had already mastered the problem of colonial government and administration. At the root of all the trouble was the irresponsible government of the colony; this gave rise to abuses of power and petty tyranny. To this irresponsibility of the Executive Councils, was added the friction arising from difference of creeds, races and language. Durham drew up a Report, or rather Mr. Chas. Buller his secretary did, in which he advocated a Legislative Union of all the British provinces in America; failing that, a single Parliament for both Upper and Lower Canada. He urged that the advisers of future governors should be chosen from the ranks of those having a majority in the Assembly—in brief, that the system of Responsible Government which existed in Britain should be extended to Canada. As a necessary corollary of this position, the whole revenue of the province should be placed under the control of the elected Assembly, due provision being made and security given for the payment of judges and the necessary government officials. These were the leading and vital ideas in this valuable Report. Durham did not live to see them carried out; but it was his to sow the seed of responsible government, from which both the Mother Country and her colonies have reached so rich a harvest.

The rebellion in both Provinces having been suppressed, the Home Government and the British Parliament were now anxious to take such steps as would prevent future

risings and ensure peace and contentment in Canada. It was now that Durham's Report was seen to be of inestimable value. It was eagerly consulted and discussed. The final outcome of these deliberations and discussions was the passage of the famous Union Act of 1840, which came into operation in 1841.

Let us now examine the chief provisions of this measure and endeavour to grasp its underlying principles.

The first important feature to notice is, that instead of two provinces with separate Legislatures, there was to be henceforth two provinces with but one Legislature. Each province was to have the same number of members in an elected Assembly, the number at first being fixed at 42. In addition to this Assembly there was to be a nominated Legislative Council, holding office for life, under certain conditions. There was, of course, to be a Governor appointed by the Crown; and an Executive Council, also chosen by the Crown, or the Crown's representative, the Governor. The members of both Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council were to be British subjects, of a certain age, and with considerable property qualification. So far, no very radical change is noticeable in this new Constitution. But one may now be emphasized. The whole revenue of the provinces was put under the control of the Legislative Assembly, definite provision being made for the payment out of a fund of the officers of the Civil List. \$300,000 per annum was to be set aside annually for the payment of judges, the Executive council and all the other officials necessary for the administration of Provincial affairs. The recognition of the right of the people's representatives to control the expenditure marks a great advance in the direction of Responsible Government. If there was one thing more than an-