

But what is even more remarkable in natural production, is the fact of a young grape vine being transplanted to the same quarter of my grounds, and producing the same year the most delicious grapes. True, there were not many bunches, but the few that grew, were both sweet and large.

What greatly contributed to render fatal the unfortunate accident which befel Lord Sydenham, was the free indulgence he had been in the habit of giving to his appetites. His Lordship, with all his activity and energy of mind, was a sensualist, and his sacrifices to Venus were scarcely less copious than those rendered to Bacchus. It was well known that his establishment at one time acknowledged the sway of at least one mistress, who, of course, was not visible, but with whom his Lordship found solace after the hours of labor devoted to his government. His Lordship, moreover, paid great court to several Canadian ladies, both in Toronto and Montreal.—Married as well as unmarried—French and English, in turn, evicted his homage. His attentions to Mrs. ———, of Toronto, were so very marked, that the scandalous circles rang with them, and each belle, jealous of the preference given to what she deemed to be her less deserving rival, was ready to die with vexation that the vice-regal handkerchief had not been thrown at her feet. It was said that Mademoiselle ———, of Montreal, rejecting a gallant lover who had long dangled after her, was to be elevated to the honor of being Baroness Sydenham, but there were those again who believed that the presumed attention to the young lady was only a cloak to lade his unremitting devotion to her not less fascinating married sister. These were the *ou dits* of the day. Whether true or false it is difficult to pretend to determine. Canada is, however, behind no country in the civilized world in keen love for scandal, and there was something exceedingly piquant in attributing to Governors those weaknesses which are common to our nature, and which in some degree, reduce the man of intellect and intelligence to a level with the braggart and the fool.

At table Lord Sydenham is said to have indulged, and fed the gout, by which he had been so long and so painfully afflicted, with every viand the most calculated to ensure its continuance. He invariably took his turtle or mock-turtle soup; swallowed the seeds of early dissolution in the thick, fat, bottled porter, which was indispensable to his meal; and dived unhesitatingly into all the mysteries of champagne. In fact, Lord Sydenham was in every sense of the word a gourmet, so much so that a wound which, in a man of temperate habits and uncorrupted blood, would have proved superficial, created in him an irritability, aided as the latter was by the dormant gout it awakened, beyond what his weak and debilitated frame could bear, and principally tended to his demise. Had he not led the life of indulgence he had, the more accident which occurred to him never would have deprived him of life at the early age of forty-two.

In reviewing the political life of Lord Sydenham, it is impossible not to be forcibly struck by the fact that nothing in the course of his administration was new or original. Energy, quickness and pliability of mind, he possessed in all the degree necessary to the Governor of so turbulent a country, where, as he very properly remarks, (and I have stated the same thing in my notice of Lord Durham's administration,) there are nearly as many political prejudices and opinions to conciliate as persons; but these were qualities characteristic rather of the determination of the soldier, than of the sagacity and wisdom of the statesman. The way had been completely paved before him. Lord Durham's report was his text book, and it was chiefly by condescending to the little arts, (not very flattering by the way to the understandings, of the Canadian people,) to which the noble earl could not stoop, that Mr. Thompson owed his success in carrying out that which his predecessor had recommended. It was by playing with men's vanity, tampering with their interests, their passions, and their prejudices, and placing himself in a position of familiarity with those of whom he might, at once, obtain assistance and information, that he succeeded in carrying out what Lord Durham had left to some more practical person to effect. The Union was not the idea of Lord Sydenham, for, as elsewhere has been shown, this measure is recommended in the Report, although Lord Durham had been unfriendly hostile to the plan up to the very moment of his departure from Quebec. Neither was the Municipal Bill, nor the Registry Bill, nor in fact any of those measures on the passing of which the biographer of Lord Sydenham so much vaunts himself, the fruit of his own diplomatic invention, for it will be remembered, that not only these bills, but a Bill for Education, and a Feudal Tenure Bill had been in progress before Lord Durham's departure—some of them even being then in type—while as of the Municipal Bill particularly, the disallowance of the clauses for which, during the discussion of the question in England, had given his Lordship so much uneasiness, this had ever been one of the leading projects of Lord Durham, in his reign of the government of the country. The whole object of the Government of Lord Sydenham, and the whole end attained was, therefore, the fulfilment of the designs and recommendations of his noble predecessor. He invented nothing new, discovered no new source of complaint; and, consequently, sought not to apply any new remedy. By the exercise of some tact and ingenuity, and a not very straight-forward mode of enlisting the personal, or sectional,

interests of those whose services could be of value to him, Lord Sydenham certainly succeeded in acquiring a very strange ascendancy in quarters where it was the least to have been anticipated. While, therefore, all due credit is due to him for his indefatigability of purpose, one cannot but lament a person, holding the distinguished position of Representative of the Sovereign, should have been found committing himself to the unworthy mystification of those with whom he was in the habit of so frequently of conversing.—For instance, when asked by a person who happened to be in the same steamer which took him to the Upper Province, where he intended to fix the Seat of Government, the not very vice-regal reply was, "that any body might tell that, with half an eye." Now this familiar answer was not only in itself ambiguous, but intended to mislead. The object was to induce a Toronto citizen to believe that Toronto was the favored place; a Kingstonian, Kingston; a Quebecer, Quebec; and a Montrealer, Montreal; and thus, to secure popularity with all parties in the Province. And yet, it is quite clear that Lord Sydenham had decided upon Kingston as the definitive Seat of Government after the Union, for independently of the fact of the desire expressed shortly before his death, to be buried in what he conceived would be preserved as the future capital of Canada, the following significant allusion to the subject is made in a private letter, written in 1840, of Canada, and published in the account of his Canadian administration.—"I shall fix the capital of the United Province in this one, of course. Kingston will most probably be the place; but there is every thing to be done there yet to provide accommodation for the meeting of the Assembly in the spring."

To one, of his Lordship's somewhat satirical play of fancy, it must however have been most amusing to hear the remarks of the flatterers who obtained admission to his presence. Paris, they have abounded since the time of Lord Dalhousie (and I believe he was pestered by the greatest toady in it—one who had transferred his homage to every succeeding Governor) down to the present period. A very humorous story is told of one of these gentlemen. A certain individual who had been recently appointed to a lucrative situation in the Customs, called upon his Lordship, and after thanking him for the honor, expressed himself as being apprehensive that he was not in a sufficiently elevated position in life to merit the distinction. "Pshaw!" replied his Lordship with dry sarcasm, "as to that, there's not much difference between you. You are all pretty much alike in my opinion."

But practical and useful as were the measures of Lord Sydenham, founded on the report of his predecessor, they were marked by an injustice which would seem to shew that his Lordship's Government was purely one of expediency, and that he studied not so much the ulterior happiness of the people, as the speediest means of attaining that honor which, he could not but be sensible would be the reward of his adjustment of the difficulties of the country, even though that adjustment should prove merely a temporary one. One really might feel inclined to doubt this, were it not for the premature haste his Lordship evinced to be recalled the moment after the close of the session of the first Canadian Parliament under the Union. He evidently entertained distrust of the well-working of the machinery which he had set in motion, and was consequently anxious to leave the country before its flaws should be discovered.

The great, and manifest, and irreparable evil of which he was guilty, was the formation of an Executive Council who were, under himself, to preside over the destinies of a people in whose bosoms still rankled the bitter recollection of the undue lenity which had been extended to the guilty participators in the rebellion so recently crushed by them. Common justice demanded that they who had borne arms against the Government, or indirectly connived at the troubles of that period, never should have been permitted to insult the good and loyal of the land by their monstrous elevation to offices so important as those of Executive Councilors. The introduction of the principle of Responsible Government did not require so manifestly injurious a course of action. It was easy enough to have said, and no one in the country could have impugned the correctness of the principle, "People of Canada, Her Majesty, yielding to the desire you have expressed, consents that the boon of Responsible Government shall be conferred upon you; but, just as she is gracious, she cannot admit to domination over the great mass of her Canadian subjects men who have been suspected if not absolutely attainted with treason—whose principles have been decidedly hostile to British connection, and whose actions have had a direct tendency to sever it. It is admitted that there may have been abuses in the administration of this country, which it is essential should be rectified by the application of this new system of Government, but the means of correcting those evils lie wholly within yourselves; and the preponderance of party must be governed by events. They who have continued loyal to their Sovereign will now receive the reward of their fidelity, by being placed in a position to remove existing abuses; and if they fail to do this to the satisfaction of the people, it will remain for the voice of that people to displace them."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]