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terms of law to be applied, in criminal and civil matters had been indicated. Courts of Justice had been organized and an administrative system had been put in operation. The task of the future was the adjustment of the system of government so created to the changing needs and conditions.

The American war of independence, apart from its influence on the attitude of British statemanship towards the government of dependencies acted in a very definite manner upon the development of the Canadian constitution. A sudden and copious stream of immigration introduced new political habits and aspirations. New districts were opened up for settlement; new industries were established; new commercial interests were formed and a new political problem was created. The Constitutional Act of 1791 was a well-meant attempt to meet the needs of the moment.

The colony was divided into the separate Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and the principle of representation in government was introduced by the creation of an elective House of Assembly for each province. Each also was to have, as a second chamber, a Legislative Council, the members of which, nominated by the Sovereign, were to hold office for life. The executive functions of government in each province were to be performed by a Governor or Lieutenant Governor assisted by an Executive Council also nominated by the Crown. In this volume therefore may be traced the development of two constitutions, similar in their essential features, operating in the midst of two peoples of widely divergent political habits and tendencies.

Such, in the main outlines, was the system under which the two Canadian provinces were governed, not without vicissitudes for practically half a century or from 1792 to 1841.

The boundary line between legislative and executive functions in government is not easily drawn and the history of this period illustrates the growing demands of the legislatures to exercise an effective control over administration. The goal of this movement or tendency was responsible government and only with the attainment of this result was a true political equilibrium established.

The decade following the passing of the Constitutional Act is marked by various measures intended to promote the satisfactory working of the new system of government. The views of the British Government as to general policy to be followed are to be found in the commission and instructions of Lord Dorchester. An Elective Assembly was a novelty to the majority of the inhabitants of Lower Canada and much attention was therefore given to the procedure necessary in connection therewith.

The majority of the inhabitants of Upper Canada were already familiar with the working of popular institutions and were thus prepared to take advantage of the new constitution, and at an early date many statutes were passed conferring on the inhabitants of Upper Canada rights which have been associated particularly with Anglo-Saxon traditions.

Early in the history of each Province, but first in Upper Canada, Acts were passed establishing a judicial system and the arrangements then made remained in