

tween the assembly and the official party for the control of the revenues, had commenced before Mr. Papineau entered public life. On his election to the assembly, not merely did he take the popular side, but by his extensive knowledge and great eloquence, he gave new force to the demand of the assembly for a full control over the public expenditure.

In the year 1812, Mr. Papineau was the leader of the young and talented minority which endeavored, in the house of assembly, to save the province from any collision with the United States. He clearly foresaw that the best interests of Canada consisted in cultivating a close friendship with this Union, with which, by geographical position and commercial intercourse, she should naturally be more intimately connected, than with a power at the other side of the Atlantic. He saw at the same time, that all the loss, the misery and suffering which were to result from such a war, would have to be borne exclusively by Canada, whilst all the honor (if honor there should be) would belong to England. Prompted by these long-sighted and patriotic views, he attempted to save his country from all participation in that conflict, or indeed in any *English* wars. His efforts, unfortunately, were not successful. The war proceeded, and he served as a captain in the militia until the return of peace.

It was whilst serving in this capacity, that the American prisoners, after the disgraceful surrender of Gen. Hull at Detroit, were marched into Montreal. In the presence of all rules of courtesy, and to the indignation of those brave men's feelings, they were ordered to enter the latter city to the tune of Yankee Doodle—an air originally gotten up in the time of the revolution by an English officer in derision of the then unskilled, but afterwards successful militia of our country, and which was played on the occasion above referred to, to render the prisoners objects of similar ridicule and obloquy. Mr. Papineau held a captain's commission on this occasion, and had command of a company who preceded the prisoners. So indignant was he at the insult thus offered, that he wheeled out of the line and refused with a number of his men to proceed, declaring that neither himself nor his men would commingle with troops who could be guilty of conduct so reprehensible and disgusting; that his duty to his country, though at war with another power, could never require him to treat the captured soldiers of that power inhospitably or uncourteously.

In the year 1817, he was chosen speaker of the house of assembly. In 1820, Lord Dalhousie en-

tered upon the government of Lower Canada. At this time, the country was in a tolerably tranquil state, and the governor, thinking it wise to attach a man of the speaker's talents to his side, made Mr. Papineau an executive councillor. Strong feelings, it is true, had been excited by the absurd pretensions of the official party to procure a permanent civil list; a civil list for the King's life; or failing that, a vote of supplies in a lump (*en bloc*); all which schemes had been opposed by Mr. Papineau. Lord Dalhousie was a new man, and the country seemed disposed to try him. In 1821 the house carried an address on grievances, to which a *civil answer* was returned, and matters still continued to go on smoothly.

In 1822, however, this tranquility was disturbed by a proposal entertained by the imperial parliament, to unite the provinces. This measure was extremely unpopular in Lower Canada, and excited warm debates in the assembly. Throughout the country, too, the people were much excited; "constitutional committees" were formed for deprecating the intended union. Petitions were circulated and numerous signed, and deputies were appointed to proceed to England to remonstrate against the measure. The subject of our memoir was one of these deputies. His opposition to the views of the official party having, in the mean time, shewn that he could not be bought, he was dismissed, previous to his departure for England, from the executive council. The projected union was successfully opposed, and Mr. Papineau and his colleague Mr. John Neilson, on their return in 1824 were enabled to communicate to the assembly, "that the measure of an union was dropped, and that in case of its revival (and this was a most important point gained) the subject would be communicated to the colony, and time would be allowed to enable the colonists to be heard in parliament."

From the period of his return, Mr. Papineau gave up his practice at the bar, and devoted himself to his duties in the house of assembly, with a degree of ardour which has placed him in the prominent position he has long occupied. To enumerate his great services to his country, would be to enumerate his country's grievances. That is not now our object. To the administration of Lord Dalhousie, and to that of Lord Aylmer, both of which have been acknowledged to have been most oppressive and tyrannical, because those noblemen threw themselves into the arms of the officials, he was the untiring opponent. Lord Dalhousie foolishly made the matter *personal*, by refusing in 1827 to sanction the house's choice of Mr. Papineau as