

in this Province difficult to realize as having transpired during the fifty years which have intervened. The first settlers found themselves in a position which, owing to the then existing state of things, can never occur again. They were cut off from communication except by very slow and inadequate means with the older and more advanced parts of America, and were therefore almost totally isolated. They adhered to the manners and customs of their fathers, and though they acquired property and grew up in sturdy independence, their habits and modes of living remained unchanged. But now the steamboat and locomotive brought them into contact with the world outside. They began to feel and see that a new state of things had been inaugurated; that the old paths had been forsaken; that the world had faced about and taken up a new line of march; and, as their lives hitherto had been one of exigency, they were skilled in adapting themselves to the needs of the hour. Men, who have been trained in such a school, are quick at catching improvements and turning them to their advantage. It matters not in what direction these improvements tend, whether to agriculture, manufactures, education, or government; and we shall find that in all these our fathers were not slow to move, nor unequal to the emergency when it was pressed upon them.

One of the dearest privileges of a British subject is the right of free discussion on all topics, whether sacred or secular, more especially those of a political character and giving effect to his opinions at the polls; and no people have exercised these privileges with more practical intelligence than the Anglo-Canadian. It must be confessed that half a century ago and even much later, Colonial affairs were not managed by the Home Government altogether in a satisfactory manner. Though at the time there can hardly be a doubt that the measures emanating from the Colonial office received careful consid-

eration and were designed with an honest wish to promote the well-being of the colonists, and not in the perfunctory manner which has been ascribed to it. The great difficulty has been for an old country like the mother land, with its long established usages, its time-honoured institutions, its veneration for precedent, its dislike to change, and its faith in its own wisdom and power, to appreciate either the wants of a new country, or to yield hastily to its demands. They took for granted, that what was good for them would undoubtedly be equally beneficial to us. Their system of government, though it had undergone many a change, even in its monarchical type, was the model on which the Colonial Governments were based, and when the time came we were set up with a Governor appointed by the Crown, a Council chosen by the Governor, and an Assembly elected by the people. They had an Established Church, an outcome of the Reformation, supported by the State. It was necessary for the welfare of the people and their future salvation, that we should have one, and it was given us, and large grants of land made for its support. A hereditary nobility was an impossibility, for the entire revenue of the province in its early days, would not have been a sufficient income for a noble lord. Still there were needy gentlemen of good families, as there always have been and, probably, ever will be, who were willing to sacrifice themselves for a government stipend. They were provided for and sent across the sea to this new land of ours to fill the few offices that were of any importance. There was nothing strange or unnatural in all this, and if these newcomers had honestly applied themselves to the development of the country instead of advancing their own interests, many of the difficulties which afterwards sprung up would have been avoided. The men who had made the country began to feel that they knew more about its wants than the