

CHAPTER XXXIII.

THE FAMILY COMPACT.

UNDER the rule of the Family Compact the sacrifices of the settler and soldier were ignored and unrewarded. The soldier remembered how nobly England had distributed food, and supplied implements to build the log houses. Mills had been constructed, and millers furnished to grind the grain of the soldier and settler. Disabilities had been removed from water privileges. The cry of bread in the famine years of 1787 and 1788 had been met with unexampled generosity. A bountiful distribution of land to himself, wife and children were not to him alone, but on easy terms to all settlers. Under the Family Compact the patents to lands were so hampered by fees that these gifts remained valueless and useless. Men waited in vain for patents to land. An anecdote related by Dr. Scadding in the fifth volume of the Historical Society is a specimen of what was a universal complaint of that early period. A deputation waited upon Governor Hunter in relation to this matter. Governor Hunter called the heads of the department, and demanded the reason, "why these gentlemen complain they cannot get their patents." One after another made their various excuses. At last the onus seemed to rest on the head of the Registrar, who made the pressure of business his excuse. Governor Hunter said, "Sir, if they are not forthcoming to these gentlemen here in my presence at noon on Thursday (it was then Tuesday) by George, I will un-Jarvis you." It is almost needless to say that the patents were ready at the appointed time. Mr. James Ingersoll, Registrar of Oxford, makes a similar complaint. His sisters wished to secure their grants. He replied, "It is not worth the trouble. I have never drawn mine, would rather purchase than given the high fees. I have given up many of my own grants rather than pay the exorbitant fees to secure them." Mr. James Ingersoll was Registrar of Oxford for over fifty years. Major Secord's daughters did not obtain what Major Secord justly claimed.

When speaking of the Family Compact, the memory of Bishop Strachan and Chief Justice Powell are ever brought to mind. There were many others that share the obloquy of that time and whose