

The voice that demanded the redress of real wrongs was hushed, while greater dangers were impending; but it was not silenced. It slumbered for awhile, to re-echo with redoubled force, when the integrity of our country should have been maintained by an armed and devoted people.

Its resurrection was at hand. The battle of the Wind-mill set at rest all anxiety about the self-styled Patriots; and the land which had been disturbed as with a feverish dream, subsided into more than its wonted tranquility.

But the British Government were convinced, and justly so, that a rebellion which cost two millions of money, and not a little bloodshed, must have arisen from some misgovernment—and they sent Lord Durham to sift the matter to the bottom.

No sooner had his mission been proclaimed, than the people began again to point out the real grievances under which they labored; and to demand, with steady perseverance, the concession of the great political principle for which they were contending.

Lord Durham's report at length enunciated this principle, and the true question at issue here, became intelligible to the Parliamentary gentlemen of England; who are in general but ill-informed on Colonial matters.

But although the flames of the rebellion were extinguished, party animosities still divided the Canadian people. A great outcry was made against Lord Durham; in one District the Grand Jury went so far as to present the Report as a libel! This intemperate conduct may be attributed to the inflammatory appeals of Sir Francis Head. The bubble Governor had infected the country with the *cacoethes scribendi*. Shoals of Canadian Junius's opened their masked batteries against Lord Durham and Responsible Government; but even this could not prevent, nor did it even retard, the unwavering march of events. No reflecting man doubted the speedy triumph of the popular cause, though many set themselves in array against it. They did not dream of preventing the accomplishment of this object, but they combated it as a question of time. They hoped to see it gradually introduced—to surround the concession of it with such drawbacks as would not give it an impetus towards revolution.

They knew the constitutional reform against which they held out, must become the constitutional law, which it would be their duty, at no distant period, to uphold. It was therefore that they desired to see the people obtain this great boon after many difficulties and serious trials, for then the very thorns which had covered the path to victory, would enhance its value. A cause won after arduous struggles would not be lightly abandoned for a revolutionary contest. Men would rest themselves from their labors, and calmly watch the practical operation of the new constitution. On the other hand, if