

terly destitute of tone, so incapable of independent thought, so ready to lose them. He resembled those creepers which must lean upon something, and which, as soon as their prop is removed, fall down in utter helplessness. He could no more stand up, erect and self-supported, in any cause, than the ivy can rear itself up like the oak, or the wild vine shoot to heaven like the cedar of Lebanon. It was barely possible that, under good guidance and in favourable circumstances, such a man might have slipped through life without discredit." "At first he fell under the influence of humane and moderate men, and talked the language of humanity and moderation. But he soon found himself surrounded by fierce and resolute spirits, scared by no danger and restrained by no scruple. He had to choose whether he would be their victim or their accomplice. His choice was soon made." "So complete and rapid was the degeneracy of his nature, that within a few months after the time when he passed for a good-natured man, he had brought himself to look on the despair with misery of his fellow-creatures, with a glee resembling that of the fiends whom Dante saw watching the pool of seething pitch in Maleholge." "He had one quality which, in active life, often gives fourth-rate men and advantage over first-rate men.—Whatever he could do, he could do without effort, at any moment and on any side of any question. Of thinking to purpose he was utterly incapable; but he had a wonderful readiness in arranging and expressing the thoughts furnished to him by others." "There have been men as cowardly as he, a few as mean, a few as impudent. There may also have been as great liars, though we never met with them, or read of them." "He brought to the deliberations of the Committee of Public Safety, not indeed the knowledge nor the ability of a greater statesman, but a tongue and a pen which, if others would supply ideas, never paused for want of words. His mind was a mere organ of communication between other minds. It originated nothing; it retained nothing; it transmitted everything. The part assigned to him by his colleagues was not really of the highest importance; but it was prominent, and drew the attention of all Europe. When a great measure was to be brought forward, when an account was to be rendered of an important event, he was generally the mouth-piece of the administration." "The law which doomed him to be the humble attendant of stronger spirits, resembled the law which binds the pilot-fish to the shark. 'Ken ye,' said a shrewd Scotch lord, who was asked his opinion of James the First; 'ken ye a John ape? If I have Jacko by the collar, I can make him bite you; but if you have Jacko, you can make him bite me.' Just such a creature was Barere. In the hands of the Girondists, he would have been eager to proscribe the Jacobins; he was just as ready, in the gripe of the Jacobins, to proscribe the Girondists. On the fidelity of such a man, the heads of the Mountain could not, of course, reckon; but they valued their conquest as the very easy and not very delicate lover, in Congreve's lively song, valued the conquest of a prostitute of a different kind. They needed service which he was perfectly competent to perform. Destitute as he was of all the talents both of an active and of a speculative statesman, he could with great facility draw up a report or make a speech on any subject, and on any side. If other people could furnish facts and thoughts he could always furnish phrases; and this talent was absolutely at the command of his owners for the time being."

Such is the man chosen by the committee of the Toronto Association to assail Her Majesty's Government, Sir Charles Metcalfe, Messrs. Viger, Parke, and myself; the man who shouted onward in the last violent days