

drew, and have never gone near one of their meetings since, but have yearly paid my contributions.

I think it was in the year 1834, that the inhabitants in Montreal of British origin, formed themselves into a body under the designation of the Constitutional Society. I was elected Vice-President. We had a hall secured for holding our meetings in, and many printed documents distributed, setting forth the cause and necessity for our organization, and calling on every loyal subject of whatever origin, to join us. The only difficulty in our way was the keeping of the furiously loyal within moderate bounds as to their hatred of the French Canadians, for they were so prejudiced as to assert that "they were all traitors in their hearts, whatever they might pretend." These opinions, I uniformly combatted and condemned, and argued that it was both unjust and impolitic to sport such sentiments. Even at our public meetings and on the hustings, I fearlessly expressed these sentiments, and recommended conciliatory conduct toward the French. I called on my countrymen to reflect what their feelings would be, if placed in the same position as the French Canadians. Would it not be that of jealousy? It was our duty in every respect to try and allay these feelings, and by kindness, try and lead them to amalgamate with us. I really believe that some of these high-flown divine-right-of-Kings men, set me down as French in heart, because I pitied their prejudices.

But when the very wicked and uncalled for rebellion broke out in 1837, who acted the best part? I flew to arms instantly, got a company of young Scotchmen formed, and drilled them at my own expense, until corps were regularly organized by Government. I was unanimously chosen the first captain of the regiment, and acted in that capacity while it was in existence.

From the time I landed in Montreal I was occasionally meeting the different Governors of the Colony, as a member of the various deputations appointed from time to time, to present petitions or addresses.

During the time of the rebellion of 1837 and 1838, I had a source of correct information as to what was going on in the United States among the rebels and Yankee sympathisers, through the medium of two of our former clerks who had gone to settle there. One, who was at Buffalo, was very able, and particularly minute in his descriptions. As the letters might be opened by the American authorities, we agreed to correspond under anonymous signatures and addresses. I sent all information, after reading it to a number of gentlemen in the City, to the Governor, and it was of vital importance to the Government.

The Governor, Sir John Colborne, sent for me to inquire as to the knowledge I had of the writers, as to their trustworthiness, &c. I assured him and his Secretary of their respectability and the confidence I had in them. I was warmly thanked by both. I cannot help here remarking, that while I can suppose that Sir John may have been a very good soldier, as I am convinced he was a very well meaning man, yet he appeared to me to be a man of very inferior ability. It might be that he was then bordering on dotage. I will