

the Radicals for his policy. He did not know Roebuck personally, but they had a common friend in Molesworth, who with Hume and Roebuck had taken part in a meeting of the "Friends of Canada" at the headquarters of the Westminster Reform Association—the "Crown and Anchor." Molesworth and Hume opposed the Bill for suspending the Lower Canadian Constitution, but they both, as has been said, supported Durham's appointment.

On March 6th Molesworth made a slashing attack on Glenelg's administration of colonial affairs. His views were those of Durham—the policy of "ships, colonies and commerce." Hume defended Durham when Chandos moved his Resolution on April 3rd, and this is perhaps the best guide we possess as to the date of the famous meeting between Durham and Roebuck.

Roebuck's version¹ is that shortly before the Earl left for Canada a hint was given that he should call upon the Governor and explain at length his views on the subject of the government of Canada. It is more than probable that the hint was given by Molesworth, but Roebuck says he refused to take it. He professed, however, to be willing to afford Lord Durham the desired information if the Governor chose to invite him to call. Durham saw the advantage he might derive from having the *imprimatur* of Roebuck for his mission. Roebuck was a Lower Canadian by birth, on friendly terms with the French leaders, and possessed of information as to their wishes by virtue of his position as Agent for the Assembly in England. Charles Buller was sent to interview Roebuck, and he agreed to call on Durham. It is amusing to read of the Agent's virtuous indignation when Durham proposed that he should take up a position on the borders of Canada, but in the territory of the United States, and correspond with him there. Perhaps Durham and Wakefield had already worked out their plan for conciliating the French, and intended to use Roebuck as a means to obtain touch

¹ See his "Colonies of England," pp. 120 *et seq.*