

tion from the violence of their antagonists—maintained their usual sullen and impassive demeanour. But the feeling and the movement of deep regret extended throughout the British of every party in the two provinces. Even those who had the most violently condemned his policy—even the most reckless of the Family Compact of Upper Canada—expressed the common feeling in terms proving how sincerely they participated in alarm at Lord Durham's departure, if not in approval of his policy.

These demonstrations did not, however, affect the grounds on which Lord Durham and all around him saw that his resignation was absolutely necessary. Indeed these considerations, together with the news which reached us from every quarter of the preparations for fresh insurrection, rendered it incumbent on Lord Durham at once to put the fact of his resolution beyond a doubt, and to take measures for his instant departure, in order to end that species of interregnum which cannot but exist when a governor has declared his intention of giving up his office. With this view, he determined on leaving the province at the close of October, and he announced this by the famous Proclamation which he issued on the 9th of that month.

In this Proclamation Lord Durham had two great objects in view. The first was that of calming the excessive agitation which his abrupt departure from Canada had occasioned, by showing that he did not despair, and that he yet hoped by immediate and energetic remonstrances at home to effect that good which he could not secure by remaining in Canada. The second was certainly that of vindicating himself by the only public means in his power. He was much censured for publishing what has been considered an inflammatory appeal from the Imperial Government and Legislature to the people of the colonies. It must not, however, be matter of surprise that after the unusual mode in which Lord Durham had been assailed in Parliament and abandoned by the Ministry—after his policy had been condemned without hearing or explanation, that he should think it necessary to step somewhat beyond the line of official usage, in order to protect himself against those who had used him thus ungenerously. As for the inflammatory effect which it has been said that the proclamation was calculated, if not intended, to produce, the answer simply is that it both purported to seek, and did in effect produce, precisely the opposite result. No disorder, no increase of disaffection ensued; on the contrary, all parties in the province expressed a revival of confidence; and we had it