

The result of this proceeding was that the constitutional party, though at the time much disappointed, was eventually satisfied, and the great body of those who had been concerned in treasonable practices expressed themselves most thankful and grateful for the extreme lenity and forbearance which had been manifested towards them. Except the ultra republicans, the parties, indeed, who had joined in the insurrection, became sensible that they had done their fellow-subjects a very great injury, by the extreme measures to which they had resorted; bringing, as they had brought, upon this beautiful and once prosperous province, repeated invasions from without, and extreme misery and desolation within.

On this view of the past, which I have endeavoured on all occasions strongly to impress upon those who were implicated in the unnatural rebellion, I have reposed my hope that a better and more kindly feeling would gradually display itself; and, to an extent, my expectations have certainly been realized.

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Her Majesty's High Commissioner has taken, I observe, a view altogether different. His Lordship has evidently regarded the party whose practical loyalty has been so warmly eulogised by Her Majesty's Government to be politically the most culpable, and the unsuccessful faction to be the injured party; upon the treatment of the latter the Report, indeed, contains such strictures that those very persons who have hitherto considered themselves as the recipients of mercy must henceforward be expected loudly to declaim against the injustice to which they have been subjected, and, as an inevitable consequence, renewed bad feeling and angry struggles for political influence must speedily ensue.

I am quite aware that by some means or other the Report so got into circulation as to preclude the exercise of a discretionary power by Her Majesty's Government to preserve particular passages of it from the public eye; but I cannot avoid expressing how deeply I deplore the publication, among other parts, of those paragraphs in particular at pages 59 and 60, to which the marginal notes "difficulties of adjustment increased by late events," and "irritation excited," are respectively affixed.

Even were the statements contained in those paragraphs strictly correct, their circulation within this province would be much to be regretted; but, inaccurate as they really are, it is lamentable to consider the degree of mischief which is likely to result from their appearance.

It is not the imputation that the Lieutenant-governor of the province has unnecessarily deprived two fellow-creatures of life, in opposition, as the Report represents, to the general sympathy of a large body of the community, painful as the reflection is to my feelings, and to those of my friends in England, that will produce the worst mischief to be anticipated, but it is the impression that the government has deliberately sanctioned an arbitrary and reckless course of proceeding towards a class of persons whose political crimes have been so reviewed as to leave it doubtful to the reader of the Report whether they had been guilty of any real offence; or, at the worst, that they had been goaded into disloyalty and invited to rebellion; and that, consequently, the cause, if it did not justify, at least was some excuse for their violent proceedings.

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Your Lordship will find in my despatch to Lord Glenelg, No. 4, of the 14th April 1838, a full report of the cases of the two men who were executed.

I did not mention in that despatch, but I may now with propriety do so, that just before his departure from Toronto, which took place a few hours after my arrival, Sir Francis Head informed me that the loyal people in the country required at the hands of the government that such examples should be made as would deter the disloyal from again bringing on the province a similar calamity to that which had occurred; and he was anxious I should understand that he had come to the determination, provided he should remain in the administration of the government, of allowing the infliction of capital punishment on seven or eight of the leaders of the rebellion.

Lount and Matthews were amongst the most active of the insurgents at the time when Colonel Moodie and George Smith were murdered. They were foremost in setting fire to Doctor Horne's and Mrs. Washburn's houses in the suburbs of Toronto, and in the attempt to destroy the Don bridge leading into the city; and both were most anxious to prevail upon their associates to rush into Toronto and set it in flames.

Such offenders were not likely to draw forth the compassionate sentiments of the bulk of the community which had defeated their designs, nor were such sentiments generally expressed in their behalf.

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