

important of the two. It is not pretended that Mr. Mackenzie is not a just man, and punctual, honest, and upright in his dealings: neither in this House nor out of it has the breath of slander assailed his private character; he is the free and unanimous choice of the greatest, most populous, and wealthy county in the Province: let him take his seat. We are going to be asked for a large vote of money to the Welland Canal, for a still larger sum to the St. Lawrence; and is it not right that the county of York should be represented in such a case? Had the Executive Government been sincere in its expression of a desire to remove the difficulty that exists, it would, I think, have found the means of doing so before now. But I fear there is a secret influence here that counteracts all the good intentions and professed anxiety for our constitutional rights expressed in England. Had Mr. Mackenzie exerted himself in favor of the views of the government in the same way in which he has sought the reform of abuses, he would have been covered with the honors of the government. It is the same with the minority on this floor—their only recompense is found in a sense of having faithfully performed an unpleasant duty to the country."

In 1834 a general election changed the character of the Legislative Assembly.

The liberal Despatches from the Imperial to the Colonial Government on the subject of the grievances brought to light by Mr. MACKENZIE were published by order of Sir John Colborne, the then Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada, and gave general satisfaction to the people; but, at the instigation of the faction then ruling the country, His Excellency ignored the Royal Instructions, and committed acts directly in opposition to the Imperial will and authority. Among these was the establishment of the Rectories secretly, and on the eve of his departure from the Province—an act of official iniquity the like of which was never perhaps perpetrated in a British Colony. The foundations of a State Religious Establishment were thus laid in darkness, and its superstructure has since been reared by treachery and violence, in opposition to the well-known sentiments and desires of our population.

In 1835, Mr. MACKENZIE's labours in the public service might well be designated as herculean and invaluable. As Chairman of the "Committee on Grievances," he produced a voluminous Report embracing a mass of intelligence never before submitted to Parliament or the people. He carried to maturity important reforms of the law—one of which—an Act to prevent more than one action on Promissory Notes—effectually arrested the hand of the oppressor. During the whole year, after the prorogation of Parliament, he laboured as Commissioner in the investigation of the affairs of the Welland Canal, and rendered incalculable service to the country. His capacity to unravel the complicated financial blunders or villanies of the Company being denied, two accountants were called to inspect his charges, one of whom was Mr. Hincks, and he published, under his own signature, that were he on oath, he could not say whether, as Mr. MACKENZIE had affirmed, the greater number of entries in the companies books were true or false! For his year's services he was voted £250 in 1836, but the supplies not being voted that year it remained unpaid until 1851,