

American soldiers in the district of Montreal. Being in distress, they took what food they wanted by force from the inhabitants. On the 8th of June the Americans were defeated at Three Rivers, and again at Sorel and Chambly. The English, under General Burgoyne, subsequently gained one or two more victories; and before the close of the year 1776, the American soldiers abandoned Canada, and did not return again during the remainder of this war between them and England.

In my last letter, I stated that the Quebec Act of 1762 did not remove the uncertainties which were produced by having both the law of England and the law of France in operation in Canada, because the judges were frequently doubtful whether one law or the other should decide the disputes which were laid before them. The people, therefore, continued dissatisfied from this, and other causes, which are not necessary here to mention. To remove their complaints, however, the English Parliament made a law in 1791, which is commonly called "the Constitutional Act." This law caused some very important changes in our Government, which I will endeavor to explain to you.

This "Constitutional Act" was first laid before the British Parliament, in England, in the Spring of 1791, by a celebrated orator and statesman, Mr. Pitt. As soon as the Canadians heard this, and had read the alterations he was going to make, they sent a gentleman, named Lymburner, to London, to state to the members of that Parliament what remedies Canada wanted, and to entreat the Parliament to make some alterations in the changes which Mr. Pitt desired to make. He objected, on behalf of the Canadians to Mr. Pitt's proposal to divide Canada into two parts; one to be called Upper Canada, and the other part Lower Canada. He said it would be much better not to divide Canada, because then, the English who had settled here would be separated from the French Canadians. This separation would create distinctions, and make them strangers to each other, and, perhaps, cause them to dislike each other. But I am sorry to say, that the Parliament, notwithstanding this, divided Canada into two parts, and this division, no doubt, produced some of the bad feeling which formerly existed between those of English and those of French origin in this country. But in 1841 Canada was no longer divided, but united into one Province; and this ill-feeling is, I am glad to say, rapidly dying away. I