

was at the root of the troubles of Lower Canada. This theory of the rebellion and an attempt to show that the Government had not been caught napping by the rebels, in the matter of troops stationed in North America, practically constituted the whole of his speech. He was followed by Brougham; the ex-Chancellor had never forgiven the ministry, and his merciless sarcasm and irony were never displayed with more zest. He ridiculed alike the past actions and present proposals of the ministry, and Melbourne's reply was quite ineffective. Wellington was all-powerful in the House of Lords, and although he made a show of defending Melbourne against some of the more unfair attacks of Brougham, it only displayed the former's impotence the more. After Wellington, Goderich (now Lord Ripon) and Lansdowne spoke the former as an ex-Colonial Secretary to express regret for having by an imprudent confidence in the Assembly's good intentions helped on the crisis he sought to avoid; the latter to attack Brougham for having talked for three hours without touching upon the real point at issue.

Then Durham arose and made a most touching speech, full of generous confidence that the patriotism of his opponents equalled his own.¹ He did not wish to take part in the debate, but to address a few words explanatory of the general principles which would influence his conduct in the discharge of the grave duties imposed upon him, and of the reasons which had induced him to accept the trust. He would not go to Canada to support a party, but to assert the supremacy, in the first place, of Her Majesty's Government and to vindicate everywhere the majesty of the law. He would not look upon any part of the Canadians as French, but merely as Her Majesty's subjects, and would defend the rights of all, whether French habitants in Quebec or British merchants in Montreal. He did not think that he would, as some speakers had said, execute a thankless task in carrying out

¹ "Hansard," Vol. XL., p. 240.