

General Carleton. Had a man of the stamp of the stern old soldier, who, a little more than a quarter of a century later, by his energy, courage and strength of will, tided the country over its most perilous crisis, been at the helm in 1774, *curés* would now be permanently named to their benefices; the bishop of Quebec would have remained "*un simple faiseur de prêtres*," named with the consent of the crown, and duly installed after taking the necessary and proper oaths to secure his dependence upon, and subjection to the state; the English laws and English language would gradually have been introduced; and England would not now have in the centre of one of her most prosperous colonies a population subjected by birth, aliens in feeling; whose chief boast and constant effort is to widen a breach kept open by differences in laws, language and religion. The bill which was sent down from the House of Lords, and which no one seemed anxious to father, reached the House of Commons at the fag end of the session, when most of the members had left for the country. It was carried through with a high hand by Lord North, who had fairly set out on that ministerial campaign, which through obstinacy and irresolution wonderfully combined, was to result in the loss to Great Britain of her American colonies. The Bill, as first introduced, was intended to cover the whole of the immense tract of country to which France, previous to the cession, had laid claim, including considerable portions of the territory belonging to New-York and Pennsylvania. Its limits were afterwards changed and curtailed at the urgent request of Edmund

Burke. Another and a most objectionable feature, which was altered by the house, was a clause giving to the Governor the power to appoint and remove his councillors at pleasure, making him, in fact, as absolute a little despot as it is possible to conceive. This doubtless would have suited the wish, and may have been the result of a suggestion, of the weak little man, who with his head already turned by Canadian *blague*, an insidious poison closely resembling and quite as potent as Irish blarney, was very anxious to return with as much power as possible, to play at being king in his little domain of Canada. Baron Masères, however, in his evidence, strongly pointed out the objection to such a system, declaring that if the councillors "were removable by the Governor, they would be considered as the mere tools and creatures of the Governor, and no reverence would be paid to their acts and ordinances. How far they might meet with obedience I will not say." The hint was acted on, and the council made by appointment from the crown, giving to the Governor, however, the power of suspension, an authority which was afterwards much abused. The act was passed in the face of the strongest opposition from all the friends of constitutional liberty, Burke, Fox, Townsend, Dunning, Glynn, Baaré and others, and French laws and customs were established in the colony, an incubus of which it has never since been able to free itself; while at the same time an opportunity was afforded the Romish hierarchy to secure their authority firmly in the land, a proceeding which a century later was to culminate in the priestly tyranny under which the Province of Quebec is now groaning.