

support in the Legislative Assembly, and it found a fiery and impetuous leader in a young Scotchman, Wm. Lyon Mackenzie, the editor of a paper known as the *Colonial Advocate*. Mackenzie was elected to represent the most important constituency in the province, the County of York. He had been mayor of Toronto or York; and was able through his paper to make his influence felt in a marked manner. He was utterly fearless in his attacks on the Compact, and, no doubt, was at times injudicious and over-zealous. He soon became the best hated man in Upper Canada. He was expelled 5 times from the Assembly on a charge of libel, and 5 times was elected by his constituents. He then made a trip to England, as the bearer of a petition from the discontented to the British Parliament, and while there enlisted the support of several British members of parliament. It was difficult, however, to bring the British Government to understand the real state of affairs in Canada. Contradictory reports were sent home and a systematic policy was adopted of repressing the instructions and messages sent to the Governors by the British ministers. Things were going from bad to worse. Finally Sir John Colborne retired, but not before he had, without any authority from the Legislature, endowed 57 rectories, for the Anglican Church. This raised a storm of indignation in the Assembly. Had Sir John Colborne been succeeded by a governor of even ordinary capacity and administrative fitness, the rebellion that followed might have been avoided, in Upper Canada at least. But the new governor, Sir Francis Bond Head, was probably worse fitted for the position than any man that could be chosen. He came to Canada with a flourish of trumpets; he made fine promises, and indulged freely in flatteries to the leaders of the Reform

party in the Assembly, but made no attempt to redress grievances and introduce responsible government. He soon cast in his lot with the Family Compact, and became a pronounced partisan. He threw himself heart and soul into the elections, and by means of personal appeals and wholesale bribery and intimidation succeeded in defeating Mackenzie and his following. The return of a majority in the Assembly, hostile to reform seems to have precipitated the Rebellion in Upper Canada, for Mackenzie now became convinced that a recourse to arms was all that was open to him and to those anxious to remedy the existing abuses.

In the meantime, events moved more rapidly in Lower Canada. The conflict there reached its crisis in 1836, and an appeal to force followed with Papineau, Nelson and others as leaders.

The Rebellion and its incidents must be passed over, pausing, however, to notice the visit of Lord Durham in 1837, to the distracted Provinces. The disturbed condition of the Lower Province had led to a suspension of the Constitutional Act, and the appointment of a Special Council, half of whose members were British and half French. Prior to this the Assembly had taken the extreme step of refusing to vote supplies, and the Governor had, on his own authority, taken money out of the Treasury to pay the government officials and carry on the necessary work of administration. So, in 1837, Lord Durham was sent out with full powers as Governor-General to investigate the causes of the prevalent discontent, and if possible to remove them. He was authorized to report to the Home Government, and his Report is of such importance that we must stop to consider it a moment. Durham was a man of exceedingly liberal ideas, and with a mind cast in statesmanlike