

CHAP. XIV
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destinies, to appeal to, and to defend her interests, on all occasions. The grave has closed over them all, and we are scarcely consoled for their loss by the conviction that their works live after them and that the rights they advocated can never perish.

In the gradual evolution of general principles and in their practical application to the business of colonial government within the last ten years, Charles Buller, though inferior in rank and station to some of his fellow-labourers, exercised a vast and most beneficial influence. As secretary to Lord Durham, his talents contributed to the brilliant success which attended his Lordship's mission. When that great man was prematurely stricken down, Charles Buller in Parliament and in the press defended his memory and reasserted his principles. Out of office, he checked and restrained the party by whom Lord Durham was feared; in office, he gave to the present Ministry his counsel and his aid in perfecting that nobleman's colonial policy.

Contrasted with some others who take an interest in colonial questions, there was something safe, practical and conciliatory in Buller's advocacy of North American interests. Unlike Hume, he never frightened or misled by counselling extreme measures; and instead of traversing boundless fields and generalizing like Molesworth, he stuck to the matter in hand and raised no difficulties, the facile removal of which was not proved to be as compatible with the dignity of the parent state as with the security of the distant provinces of the empire.

It was for this quality of his mind that we chiefly admired Buller. He never did violence to the antique prejudices of Parliament or feared to give honest counsel, when they seemed to require it, to the colonists themselves. There may be rising men in both Houses, of whom we know little; but of those we do know, there is not one, in the peculiar walks he chose, who can fill Charles Buller's place.

END OF VOL. I.