

did their best to widen the chasm of difference of race which was the policy of the office holder to suggest. It is astonishing that the writing is so tame and common place, and utterly bewildering that it should ever have subjected its authors to persecution. Mr. Garneau says sententiously "*l'apparition de ce journal marque l'ère de la liberté de la presse.*" To our mind it marks no point at all in the history of the country, but the imbecility and injustice of the Quebec Government clique.* The columns of the paper contain essays on government, without the least power, shewing that their authors but imperfectly understood the questions they discussed. At the same time they were laudably free from personality. What was written was put to paper with the design of controlling the vote of the House of Assembly, and if the leaders of the movement had known how to wield the power they created, they would have been formidable. But it was in this point they failed. The leading men, although possessing ability, were singularly devoid of prudence. They seem never clearly to have understood the true position of a House of Assembly, in any parliamentary system, when even it possesses the most ample rights and privileges. Bordages and Bedard were men in no way deficient in power, but they were always ready to push matters to extremes; as if ignorant that politics is essentially a science, the ruling principle of which is often that of compromise. Above all, they appear never to have thought that the true Statesman avoids every cause of needless irritation to his opponent. The great fault of the *Canadien* was to pander to the discord of the hour. Wit in its pages in no way existed, but it knew how to touch the chord of jealous national susceptibilities.

* The first number of the *Canadien* appeared on the 22nd Nov. 1806. The last number is dated the 14th March, 1810. Allusion to this somewhat rare book, which is in the Parliamentary Library justifies my acknowledgment of the very many acts of kindness and courtesy I have experienced from the Librarian, Mr. Todd, and Mr. Lajoie, the Assistant Librarian.

The volume in question contains 784 pages, and it is difficult to find such an extent of type with so little to make its perusal pleasant. Some of the *jeux d'esprit* however, are not without elegance and point. Many forcibly suggest the pages of Grimm. The following epigram is a favorable specimen, perhaps the best in the volume:

A UNE DAME.

Qui tenoit un chien sur ses genoux.

Grace à ton volage beauté
Malgré leur peu de ressemblance
Nous voyons la fidélité
Sur les genoux de l'inconstance.

VIGÉE.