

bitterly opposed to the introduction of a political system which carried with it the most grave disabilities on Roman Catholics, and the growing bitterness of relations between the imperial and the local legislatures in America rendered the Imperial Government unwilling to see representative government effectively established in Canada. The Quebec Act of 1774, therefore, revoked the promise of an Assembly made in 1763, and placed power in the hands of a nominee Council. The gratification caused to the French was, however, disproportionate to the indignation created among the English settlers, who petitioned earnestly for the revocation of the Act, while the New England States regarded the action of the King and Parliament as a menace to themselves, and the Declaration of Independence includes in its charges that of "abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies." Concession was impracticable in the period of war, but the maintenance of a non-representative system became still less possible when the termination of that war saw a large increase of the population of Canada as the result of the influx of loyalists from the United States, and representative government was conferred in 1791, simultaneously with the division of the territory into the two provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, the former subject to English, the latter to French civil law.

Though the Constitutional Act of 1791 con-