

provinces of Lower and Upper Canada a Legislative Council and a Legislative Assembly, the members of the former to be appointed by the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor under the authorization and direction of the Crown for life, the members of the latter to be elected by voters possessed of a small property qualification, the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor to have the power of fixing the time and place of holding the meetings of the Legislature and to prorogue and dissolve it whenever they deemed either course expedient. The Act also recognized an Executive Council to be appointed by His Majesty, his heirs or successors within each province for the affairs thereof^(a). The Legislature was to be called together once at least every year and to continue for four years unless sooner dissolved by the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor, who were to have power to give or to withhold the royal assent to all bills, and to reserve such as they should think fit for the signification of the pleasure of the Crown. This, Mr. Egerton^(b) says, was an imitation of the English Constitution, it is true, but of the English Constitution under the Stuarts. Certain it is, however, that the avowed intention of the Imperial Parliament was to assimilate the Constitution of Canada to that of Great Britain as then existing, "as nearly as the differences arising from the manners of the people and from the present situation of the province will admit"^(c). "Part of the province" Edmund Burke had said on the debate on the bill, "was inhabited chiefly by persons who had migrated from the United States. These men had fled from the blessings of American government, and there was no danger of their going back. There might be many causes of emigration not connected with government, such as a more fertile soil, or more genial climate; but they had forsaken all the advantages of a more fertile soil, and more southern latitudes, for the bleak and barren regions of Canada. There was no danger of their being so much shocked by the introduction of the British Con-

(a) S. 38.

(b) Short History of British Colonial Policy, by H. E. Egerton, p. 253.

(c) Despatch of Lord Grenville to Lord Dorchester, of October 20th, 1789.