

have felt proud when he was called upon by Lord Sydenham, in 1839, to journey from Quebec to Toronto, in the midst of a Canadian winter, to lend his aid in framing a Union Bill, by which strict justice should be done to both. He had previously given his opinions in the chamber of the special Council, and had left that chamber in disgust, but not before he had passed many acts of great importance; among others, the introduction into Lower Canada of a measure for the registration of titles to real estate, previous to which it was rather dangerous to purchase property.

People of the present day will scarcely believe that a deliberate parliamentary charge was made against Mr. Stuart for the *tone* in which he addressed the electors of the borough of William Henry, and that strong condemnatory resolutions were passed thereon by very large majorities.

Sir James Stuart succeeded Mr. Uniacke as Attorney General for Lower Canada, in 1822, although his regular appointment did not take place for two years afterwards.

In 1831 he was suspended by Lord Aylmer, which suspension was confirmed by Lord Goderich; an apology was made for this by Lord Stanley, and an offer made him of the Chief Justiceship of Newfoundland. This said office of Chief Justice of the fog clad island appears to have been in those days a favorite salve for political bruises gained in our Canadian squabbles, as in 1833 we find it bestowed on Mr. Henry John Boulton as a reparation for injuries received at the hands of the same Lord Goderich, or Glenelg as he was then called,—Sir James, however, declined.

This removal by Lord Aylmer led to a bitter correspondence, culminating in Sir James sending a formal challenge to his Lordship, which, to use the elegant phraseology of the prize ring, fixed the fight to come off as soon as his Lordship should have doffed the attributes of royalty. Lord Aylmer declined the proffered honour, and laid the correspondence before the Imperial Government, who administered a pretty sharp rebuff to Sir James, which, however, made little impression on that gentleman, as it failed to make him a bit more subservient to the governmental authority.

In 1838 Mr. Sewell resigned the Chief Justiceship of Lower Canada which he had held since 1808, and the post was immediately offered to and accepted by Sir James. In communicating his selection to the Home Government, Lord Durham pays a high compliment to "the capacious understanding, sound knowledge, and vigorous decision of Mr. Stuart," which encomium was fully sustained by the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Bars of Quebec and Montreal, held on the occasion of his death in 1853.