

In 1812, while Britain was deeply involved in the struggles of Europe, against Napoleon, the United States declared war against her, and determined on the conquest of these provinces. After meeting, however, with complete defeat on land, and especially in the attempt to conquer Canada, the enemy continued the contest at sea, with more success. However, on the British being released from their engagements at home, and entering energetically and successfully into the war, the Americans were forced to propose terms of peace, ignoring the grounds of the war altogether. On the 24th of December, 1814, the Treaty of Ghent was signed. Thus, after two years' fighting, the war between Britain and the United States—in which both Upper and Lower Canada gave effectual proofs of their loyalty to the mother country—came to an end without any advantage being gained by either of the contending parties. From 1814 to 1829 the country was agitated by disputes between the "Family Compact" and the Reformers.

The political disputes and differences at last resulted in the unfortunate disturbance of 1837, headed by William Lyon McKenzie in Upper Canada, and by Papineau in the Eastern Section. The extreme measures taken by McKenzie, Papineau, and their followers can by no means be justified—yet it cannot be denied that grievances did exist, which, happily for the peace and progress of the country, have been redressed, and a new and popular character given to our institutions which challenge the admiration and respect of every class. On the 22nd of July, 1840, the Union Bill, providing for the re-union of the provinces, passed by both Houses: in January following it received the sanction of the Queen, and came into operation on the 10th of February, 1841. From the time of the union a marked and unprecedented progress has been made by the country. Her civil laws and institutions have been matured and perfected; her manufactures and commerce have increased, while public improvements have kept pace with the advancement in every other particular.

We have no space, in this brief summary, to notice the many interesting political changes that have from time to time occupied the attention of our legislature. The Confederation of the British American Provinces, now on the eve of consummation, is, no doubt, an event well calculated to subserve the interests of all sections, and is at once a wise and patriotic scheme for the consolidation of the British possessions on this continent.

Before closing our summary we cannot refrain from remarking upon the unjustifiable policy pursued in times past and at present by the United States, both in regard to the trade relations between the two countries, and in not controlling its citizens within the limits essential to the maintenance of peace, and the honorable performance of treaties solemnly entered into by them and the mother country. The lawless and wicked invasion of our