

Government," which Mr. Burke proclaimed as our right in 1791, need be under no apprehensions as to the result of the contest upon which we are about to enter.

LESSONS FROM THE PAST:

BEING A REVIEW OF TEN YEARS OF CANADIAN POLITICS, FROM
1837 TO 1847.

BY A CONSERVATIVE OF 1837.

On the eve of a new era in Canadian politics, we purpose to pass in review the most important political events which have occurred during the last ten years. We do not intend to write a history, but simply to call to our aid those events which have had a direct bearing upon our present position ; to refer to those, the effect of which, we believe, is still prospective ; and to draw from these such "lessons" as will direct us in our advance towards the future.

The ten years which we have chosen, have been eventful. They opened with a rebellion. At the outset of 1837, the wishes of the people, intemperately expressed by Mackenzie, and the prerogative of the Crown injudiciously opposed to them by a warm-hearted, but wrong-headed Governor, came into violent collision, and the country awoke one morning to find its Governor "with folded arms," and its people everywhere arming.

Mackenzie, the rebel leader, had been borne into popularity on the wishes of the people ; but his desires went far beyond theirs. They were contending for something which they claimed as the universal privilege of British subjects ; he was leading them on in order to procure a revolution, to upset the foundations of that constitution they were striving to purify, and to obtain for himself a dictatorial power.

He failed : for his object once unveiled by his open resort to arms, his adherents became disgusted, and with the exception of a few misguided men, rallied for the protection of their cherished institutions.

But notwithstanding this, they did not pretend to conceal from the world that they still remained dissatisfied. The corrupt government of a "petty oligarchy" which, in defiance of the popular voice excluded from power, all but their own partizans, was as odious to British freemen, now that they were re-established, as it had been when their power was tottering before the breath of a rebellion.

For a time, the dangers from within, coupled with open invasion from without their native land, deterred them from a fresh declaration of their wrongs.