

justice was improperly administered, and that crown lands were sold to a favored few, to whom also all public offices were entrusted. Another cause of dissatisfaction was the unfair distribution of the Clergy Reserves. Loud complaints were heard on all sides, and a terrible storm threatened to burst.

In Lower Canada similar grievances existed together with difficulties of nationality and creed. The British residents in this province had revived the ill-feeling of former years against the French, who cordially reciprocated. The Lower Canadians were attached to the British Crown, but were compelled by circumstances to entertain less tender feelings towards some of its representatives. Catholics were excluded from office, and the French were told that the conditions of the Treaty of Paris were merely matter of toleration and not acknowledged rights. Such falsehood was exceedingly annoying to the French Canadians.

A great deal of dissatisfaction pervaded the two provinces, when finally the feeling became so intensified by the rejection of several bills in the two Legislatures, that the disaffected broke out in actual rebellion in 1837. The act was hasty, but they were goaded on to violence. A bold stroke was made for freedom. A powerful attempt to crush the Family Compact which held sway in all the provinces. The rebellion was put down, but it had its effect. It is true the English Government had appointed a Commission of Inquiry in 1835, but it effected nothing. England now remembered Bunker Hill, and was roused from her passivity and tardiness, for might there not be another "American shaking-off" of European power? Colonial grievances were now seriously considered, with the result that the Union Act was passed in 1840. The two Canadas were united under one Legislative Assembly, and "the benefits of responsible government were accorded for the first time to the British colonists in America." This was one triumph for the people, the second was "the concession to the House of Assembly the complete control over the revenue in all its branches, and the supervision of the entire expenditure of the country." The Clergy Reserves dispute was also settled, by the award of all funds arising from future sales to the different municipalities for educational purposes.

Thus was finally removed from Canadian politics the influence of the Family Compact, famous for its despotism, absolutism, illiberality, and every quality inimicable to the spirit of freedom.

The union of the two provinces gave general satisfaction, but it was foreseen that differences of race and religion distinctly marked, would in the near future necessitate further modifications of the government. Events occurred as anticipated, and in 1857 a scheme for the confederation of the British Provinces was proposed, with the result that four out of six complied, and in accordance with the British North America Act of 1867 the "Dominion of Canada" entered upon the first year of her national existence on July 1st of the same year. The area of the Dominion was further increased by the subsequent admission of Manitoba, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, and the acquisition of authority in the North-west Territories. A discussion of the benefits of our present system would be very interesting, but the limits of this paper prevent it. Suffice it to say, that each province has a separate government of its own and full power to legislate on matters of provincial concern, while the Federal Government has authority in matters of national import alone.

Looking back on what has been said can we not say that the constitutional history of this country is of the deepest interest? Is there not shown in clear and unmistakable characters a vigorous and successful fight for freedom? Every one who knows anything about our present form of government will readily admit that we in Canada possess, in an eminent degree, that freedom which is necessary for the building up of a great nation, free, united and prosperous. If we can judge from the past, such, in the near future, we are destined to become. We are at a loss then to know why there are Canadians who clamor for annexation to the neighboring republic, while others manifest a loyalty that is not *true* loyalty in advocating Imperial Federation. The former are easily deceived if they believe their favorite scheme will forever do away with commercial depression in which alone they interest themselves. We speak only of material interests, for the additional discussion of the influence of the government on religion and education would