

indiscreet and expensive delegation to record in writing the utter impracticability of engrafting republican principles upon monarchical institutions.

The Report of this Commission has been long before the world, and teeming as it does with crude theories, conflicting opinions, and suggested reforms of no questionable tendency, it has now become a manual in Downing Street for the *précis* writers on North American affairs. Upon this Report Lord John Russell's untoward Bill of 1837 was based, and a more abortive measure was never carried through the House of Commons. The circumstances which rendered the intervention of the Imperial Parliament imperative, urgently demanded that this exercise of jurisdiction should be powerful and decisive. But the Bill was one of those mere temporary expedients which are only resorted to by small statesmen on occasions of emergency. It carried all the odium of a violation of the provincial constitution without providing any permanent or efficient remedy for the inveterate disorder it was intended to remove; and—will it be believed?—this instrument of authority was hurled at a half insurgent people with no better guarantee for its success than the expiring influence of the mild and passive Earl of Gosford. Nor is this all! the ministry, as if alarmed at their own energy and boldness, had no sooner clothed their bantling with the ostentatious care due to its high calling, than they abandoned it entirely, and turned to the military chest, as the safest and readiest means of escape from their dilemma. Could such vacillation fail to be construed as weakness by men ripe and eager for revolt? The empire of opinion was destroyed, while that of strength was not displayed, and the unhappy colony was left to struggle with its difficulties, and to futile endeavours to pacify a spirit, fierce, hostile, and determined, which force alone could quell.

The inadequacy of the military establishment at this important crisis was unquestionably the immediate cause of that appeal to arms, which a timely demonstration of more ample means would assuredly have prevented; and it will not be easy to justify those who neglected to use a preventive measure calculated to avert so serious a calamity. Had Lord John Russell's Bill—lame and imperfect as it was—been frankly carried into operation, supported by a sufficient force to overawe the disaffected, we should not now be called on to regret the past, or look forward with some forebodings to the future. Jonathan has proved himself to be at best a false friend and slippery neighbour, and his hostile interference in our domestic quarrel must lead to some awkward explanations.

Such are the leading causes, remote and proximate, as we find them recorded and have seen them in operation, which have led to the insurrection in the Canadas; and we now proceed to show how military energy, valour, and devotion, crushed with rapid and vigorous execution that rebellious spirit which had been so long fostered and nourished to maturity by political error, weakness, and delusion.

In August last the Legislature of Lower Canada met for the last time, and, after another short burst of violence and sedition from the House of Assembly, that body finally separated; and, by its voluntary abrogation of its functions, virtually suspended the Constitution of the province. The die was cast! The chiefs of the revolt had now firmly resolved upon their course. The plot was ripe, and the whole ma-

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