

sovereign. The result may readily be imagined: a few active, ambitious, and daring men soon arose among the French Canadians, who foresaw that, in the course of time, the nationality which had been so unwisely fostered by the home authorities must be swamped by the superior intelligence, wealth, and energy of the British settlers. Every effort was therefore made to get all the legislative power into the hands of the French, and, consequently, the entire control of the public revenues, even those legitimately belonging to the crown.

In its foolish liberalism, the government of 1791 made no provision for the payment of the civil officers of government, for the judges of the land, or for the due execution of the most important duties of the state. The majority in a *provincial* assembly was allowed to act with a despotism never conceded to the majority in the *imperial* parliament; and, as might be anticipated, the governor, the executive, and the legislative councils were soon thrown into hostilities with the French party, who carried everything in the lower house, by the most artful and false appeals to the prejudices and fears of a simple-minded, generous, and high-spirited, but credulous people.

The war in which England was engaged up to 1815, not only on the continent of Europe, but also with the United States, left neither leisure nor inclination for the remedy of the evil committed by the act of 1791: temporary expedients were resorted to; an English party set up against a French; largesses, in the shape of immense tracts of land, and pluralities of offices, were given to the supporters of government; mutual recriminations were encouraged; governor after governor recalled; commissions of inquiry were issued; repeated dissolutions of refractory assemblies tried; the colonial office in England entered on no bold, manly, and decided course; traitors were patronized; sedition winked at; the very officers of the government, and the judges of the land, left for years without their salaries, while the coffers in Quebec were filled with accumulated revenues; rebellion was openly preached, the leaders of it terming Canada "our country—our lands—our revenues—our ports and fisheries," and "Une separation immediate d'avec la mère-patrie le seul moyen de conserver notre nationalité."*

The history of the recent rebellion is well known. Without the slightest practical grievance,—less taxed than any civilized people in the world, in the perfect enjoyment of all their social and religious rights, and with abundance of all the necessities and comforts of life—

* Vide *Minerve*, (a Canadian French journal of Messrs. Papineau, Viger, &c.) of the 16th of February, 1833.