

body; and, taking part with the office-holders, put itself in direct antagonism to the Assembly. A great portion of the legislation demanded by the people through the Assembly was thrown out by the Council, till in the end there was an accumulation of over three hundred bills, passed by the Lower House, and thrown out by the Upper; and various governmental irregularities were committed, against continued remonstrances.

The constant demand of the Assembly for all the revenues was met by tardy concessions from the British Government, year after year, only to increase irritation; till in the end, as it should have been in the beginning, all was surrendered. Then came the voting of supplies. The Assembly, having no other check on the Government, or the office holders, insisted on voting salaries annually and separately to each service or individual. The Governor, supported by the Council, insisted that they should be voted *en bloc*—in a lump-sum—and for a term of years, to be divided by the Executive; and thus the conduct of public affairs became so insufferable that, in 1828, a deputation from Canadians (there had been deputations in former years) carried home a petition, signed by 87,000 people, which was laid before a Committee of the House of Commons. The Committee entered fully upon the question, gave the delegates a full hearing, and by a report sustained the House of Assembly in its allegations or grievances, but left the remedy in the hands of Government.

Promises of redress were profuse, but in the multiplicity of reforms required at that time of the British Ministry, ours were overlooked till 1835, when Lord Gosford, a good-natured Irish gentleman, of no political capacity or knowledge, was sent out as Governor, accompanied by an ex-captain of Engineers, and an eccentric Indian Judge, to act with him as "Commissioners" to inquire into our grievances. The insult of appointing a commission to inquire into facts that had been re-echoed for fifteen years, when the Parliament of the province

could be the only inquest, was only equalled by the imbecility of selecting three men utterly incompetent for the task. The Commission was never recognized by our Parliament, nor did the British Ministry suppose it would be. It was sent out as a makeshift; and its reports, in which in turn each Commissioner differed from his colleagues, ended with the printing.

Lord Gosford, however, did something. He gave to Quebec a St. Catherine's ball, and, to the disgust of all loyal Britons, gave the chief place to a Canadian lady; which disgust was amplified by concessions of many things, before withheld, and a judicious bestowal of offices to certain Canadian politicians. In return, a portion of the Quebec wing of what was now called the "Papineau Party" split off, and desired reconciliation. Satisfied with what they had in hand, and promises of more, they declared that the cry for reform meant revolution.

To no party in a colony does the British nation, at home or abroad, owe so much as to the "Papineau Party," to which I had the honor of being attached. To no man born in a colony does the British nation, at home or abroad, owe so much as to Louis Joseph Papineau,—one who, by that spirit that in heroic times falls upon chosen men, towered gigantically amidst his compeers. Though here the struggle was presented as a contest between the French and English, in other colonies it was distinctly between the people and the colonial oligarchy.

In 1837, there was chronic disaffection in every British colony, and each was besieging the Colonial Office for redress of grievances, having their common source in the contests of the people, speaking through their Houses of Assembly, and Colonial office holders, supported by imbecile Governors, through an irresponsible Legislative Council. The unwavering determination of the Papineau Party forced questions to their ultimate decision; and the British Government, when awakened to the necessity, with a magnanimity seldom found in history, acknowledged the errors of the past,