

Mr. Viger—the Governor objected, and finally Mr. Caron was appointed.

Among the Bills passed by the Parliament was one for the suppression of secret societies so outrageous in its enactments that we can scarcely imagine to what pressure Mr. Baldwin yielded in its introduction, this Bill had roused the whole country, and Sir Charles intimated his intention of withholding the royal assent. He had done more; contrary to the wishes of the Council, and in vindication of his reading of Responsible Government, he had appointed to the Clerk of the Peace a young gentleman the son of a meritorious officer,—but whose political connections were all of the opposition shade.

On the 25th of November, 1843, the whole Council with the exception of Mr. Daly resigned. On the 9th of December the parliament was prorogued, and on the 13th a provisional government was formed, consisting of Messrs. Daly, Draper, Viger. The constitutionality of this proceeding was fiercely attacked by Mr. Sullivan in a series of letters signed "Legion," and was quite as vigorously defended by the Rev. Egerton Ryerson over the *nom de plume* "Leonidas." As far as the public were concerned the latter had the greater effect, and mainly contributed to the victory which was gained at the election in 1844. The Government majority was however too small to promise durability, and every effort to induce the Lower Canadian party to unite with them, proving ineffectual, they were obliged to meet Parliament, trusting to an almost accidental majority. During this time Sir Charles had been getting worse and worse, the sore on his face began to assume a very dangerous appearance, and baffled the best efforts of the most skilful medical men, amongst others, of one specially sent from England. Suffering the most terrible agony he remained at his post, determined, to use his own expression, if need were, to *die in harness*. Towards November, 1845, the disease had quite prostrated him, he was obliged to give up business, and on the 25th of the month he bid farewell to Canada, with the touching and kindly prayer, "May God bless you all." Among those who crowded the wharf to witness his departure were many who had violently opposed his government, and they evinced the sincerest sympathies for his sufferings; but the grief of the Conservatives was great, indeed he had lifted up their cause, and had taught them what endurance, activity, and union could accomplish, and at the very moment when his patronage was most needful he was taken away.

Of the private character of Sir Charles, by which term he was better known than by that of Lord Metcalfe—he having been raised to the Peerage in 1844—we need scarcely speak. He was a good man, kind, generous, and affable, with a hand every ready to assist the needy. His public acts of charity bore a small proportion to "those which are hidden in