

The new parliament met in April, 1809. The Governor's speech was again unfortunate, more especially as the Legislature had been convoked on twenty-six days' notice only. Craig was decisive on the point of causeless jealousies and unfounded suspicions. The phrase was only too suggestive of implied reproof, and the discontented turned to old subjects of discontent, with more than the old feeling of rancour. Of the new Parliament, 14 were of British origin, and 36 French Canadians, a proportion generally found at this day. We presume that it is equally representative of religion, making the reduction of one from the Protestants for the persecuted Israelites. The old bill for disqualifying Judges, and another for expelling the Jew had been introduced, and Parliament was in the middle of its deliberations, when, in the second week of May, Craig went down in state and summoned the legislature to his presence and assented to five bills of little moment. In a speech, perhaps only to be equalled by that of Cromwell, he announced his intention of dissolving the Assembly. He told them that in the place of promoting harmony, they had wasted their time in frivolous debates, and that they had abused their functions; that they had neglected matters of necessity; that they had been intemperate and had acted detrimentally to the best interests of the country. He thanked the Legislative Council for their unanimity, zeal and unremitting attention; and likewise extended his thanks to a considerable portion of the House of Assembly, and he stated that it was his intention to call a new Provincial Parliament. So extraordinary a dismissal could not fail but to create strong feelings, and to cause important results. The Canadian party, hitherto somewhat divided, were by this violent proceeding, driven into the unity which has kept them together in such compact form to this hour, and from which however surely, in the present position of parties, they are but slowly disintegrating. The emergencies of modern politics are so differ-