

had they found any governor disposed to go greater lengths to secure their good will. One of the last acts which characterised his last tenure of office, was to refuse to name the Protestant bishop of Quebec, then newly appointed, to a seat in the Legislative Council, in spite of distinct instructions from the Duke of Portland to do so. His reason for not complying, expressed at considerable length to the Duke, was that it would excite dislike among the Canadians, and could not be done without at the same time naming a Romish prelate to the same honor. To his efforts chiefly, and his prejudiced and one-sided testimony, was due the passing of the Bill, which, while flattering his vanity and desire for power, certainly was exceedingly well calculated to attain the object the Ministry had in view, and which the Solicitor-General openly proclaimed on the floor of the house. "I think there ought to be no temptation held out to the subjects of England to quit their native soil, to increase colonies at the expense of this country. . . . With regard to the English who have settled there, their number is very few. They are attached to the country either in point of commercial interest, or they are attached to it from the situations they hold under government. It is one object of this measure that these persons should not settle in Canada." The same sentiment is found expressed in Mr. Wedderburne's report to the king two years before:—"In policy, however, more attention is due to the native Canadian than to the British emigrant, not only because that class is the most numerous, but because it is not the interest of Britain that many of her natives should settle there." The consequences likely to attend the course adopted by the government were clearly pointed out by some of the able men who opposed the measure. Lord John Cavendish declared:—"For that reason, I should think it material not to give

them directly their own law again: it keeps up that perpetual dependence upon their ancient laws and customs, which will ever make us a distinct people." Mr. Serjeant Glynn, whom Lord Chatham described as a most ingenious, solid, pleasing man, and the spirit of the constitution itself, also raised his voice in warning. "I should have thought it was rather our duty," he said, "by all gentle means, to root those prejudices from the minds of the Canadians, to attach them by degrees to the civil government of England, and to rivet the union by the strong ties of laws, language and religion. You have followed the opposite principle; which, instead of making it a secure possession to this country, will cause it to remain for ever a dangerous one. I have contemplated with some horror the misery thus established for men reared up in irreconcilable aversion to our laws and constitution."

So much for the Quebec Act, to the unwise provisions of which, all the trouble there has since been and still continues to be in Canada between the different creeds and races is for the most part due. The mass of the Canadian people were beginning to understand and appreciate the English laws, which, with some changes the circumstances required, could at that time have been easily established in the country. The church, moreover, should have been put on the footing so clearly set forth in the Solicitor General's report, and kept there. Had such been the case the Province of Quebec would not be groaning now under the arrogant domination of an unbridled hierarchy. But as if to make sure of the evil effects of a law in itself injudicious, a weak and short-sighted governor was appointed to see it carried out. The Quebec Act, inaugurated by Sir James Craig, would have still remained a defective piece of legislation, but never could have assumed the form it was allowed to take in the hands of