

plishing that result were not matters upon which the colonists could be expected to have sound ideas, and a little experience of them proved to Simcoe's own satisfaction that his conviction was well grounded. Only men of military training were fit to be trusted to carry out with loyalty and discretion the commands of their superiors. Hence, while still in London,<sup>1</sup> Simcoe surrounded himself with a band of military men, chiefly fellow officers in the late American war, and took them with him as his Executive Council, and afterwards as the chief members of his Legislative Council. The minor officials he expected to select in the colony from among the officers already settled there. He had also arranged to have the Assembly composed of military men, trusting that the loyalists would, under his direction, aided by the influence of Sir John Johnson, select as their representatives the half-pay officers in the Province. Here, however, he came upon his first disappointment. Writing from Navy Hall to the Colonial Secretary, on November 4th, 1792,<sup>2</sup> he states that in his passage from Montreal to Kingston, while the first election was in progress, he discovered that the general spirit of the country was against the election of half-pay officers, but that, to use his own words, "the prejudice ran in favour of men of the lower order who keep but one table, that is, who dine in common with their own servants." Only by stopping over at Kingston, and specially exerting his personal influence, did he manage to bring in his attorney-general, Mr. White. If such was the attitude of men but lately disbanded from the ranks in which they had fought against the advocates of self-government, what might be expected from later arrivals who were merely loyalist in name? No wonder that Simcoe should gravely attempt to put into practice a scheme for maintaining a number of military companies scattered over the colony, into which he intended to recruit crude republicans from the neighbouring states, and there, on soldier's pay, by salutary drilling, useful manual labour, and friendly lectures on the evils of self-government, convert them into well affected British subjects, fit to be trusted with a bush farm in a back township.<sup>3</sup> No doubt the broth would have been well flavoured had he been able to catch his hare.

The settlers having preferred men of the lower order to Simcoe's half-pay officers, we are prepared to find some assertions of popular claims which did not meet with the approval of the governor. We come upon one such at the very threshold of the new legislation. The

<sup>1</sup> His plans for the government of Upper Canada are detailed in his letters to Dundas, written in London. See, for instance, letters of June 2nd and August 12th, 1791, Canadian Archives, Q. 278, pp. 228-255, and 283-307.

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Archives, Q. 279-1, p. 79.

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Archives, Q. 278, p. 287.