

CHAPTER XXXIV.

WAIT'S "NARRATIVE" OF THE REBELLION OF 1837.

MR. WAIT'S "Narrative," published in 1845, was compiled by Mrs. Wait, and printed in Buffalo, in the press of A. B. Wilgus. It commences by giving the state of the country in 1835. The chief authorities are Sir Francis Bond Head's official dispatches, and Lord Durham's report. The Rebellion of 1837 and 1838 produced such important results, not only to Canada, but to other colonies, that it is no more than justice to those who led the rebellion, who suffered so much (many perishing on the scaffold, and others who endured sufferings worse than death), should at least be heard.

After being denied the privilege of petition, and of holding public meetings, their representatives had been expelled from Parliament for the attempt to secure in a constitutional manner what was their undoubted right. It was only after everything in the shape of justice was denied that the rebellion took place. Those who read of those evil days can see why the descendants of the Family Compact have so little to say in justification of their rule. They had usurped every function of government, the revenues were used, all offices from the highest to the lowest were filled by themselves and their friends; one person filling several.

Judge Powell performed his duties as Judge, was Member of Parliament, and Speaker of the House; drawing pay for all these offices with their substantial perquisites.

Officials in charge of the public lands were securing the best lands for themselves, upon which no taxes were paid, and left unimproved. A State Church, claiming one-seventh of the land, was being forced upon the people. Education was to be secured only for the rich. There were defalcations in consequence of corruption. Acts were passed to protect the parties from punishment. The Governor ruled as he pleased and his ears were closed to all demands. Every complaint was called disloyalty. Here and in England they had succeeded by misrepresentation.

Mr. Wait says: "On the day of my arrival at Niagara I was informed by a gentleman high in government esteem, that I was a man marked by an exasperated Governor, as a fit subject to wreak his utmost