

tone. Lord Gosford had confined himself to the latter; Sir Francis Head, as we have seen, blundered in the former.

The object of the Colonial Minister and the Governor in attempting to deceive the Assembly and people of Lower Canada, by dealing in fairer words than their real intentions justified, is obvious enough. The Assembly had refused supplies for some years, in order to enforce the reforms for which they contended, and it was thought that if the suspicions of the Assembly could be lulled, the Executive might possibly obtain a vote of money, perhaps even a permanent civil list, which would render the official party independent of the Assembly for an indefinite period. In this hope, however, they were deceived.

After the disclosure of the instructions, which dashed all the hopes previously entertained, the House of Assembly determined to refuse peremptorily all arrears. In order, however, to meet the Executive in a spirit of conciliation, and to show how unwilling they were to throw any unnecessary impediment in the way of the Governor, the Assembly voted a six months' supply, with the conditions they had previously insisted on. The principal condition was, that individuals holding more than one office should only draw the salary of one, namely, the most highly paid. This bill, however, not being palatable to the official party, was lost in that party's house—the Legislative Council.

This body, so ridiculously defended as the representative of the aristocratic principle, when it represents nothing but a few overbearing bureaucrats, now vented its rage by a wholesale rejection of the measures of the Assembly. All the Bills which the Assembly passed for the internal improvement of the country were rejected, except one; and that (a Bill to construct a rail-road between Lower Canada and New Brunswick) was reserved for the royal sanction by the Governor-in-Chief. The Elementary School Bill and other Education Bills were among those rejected by the Council. In consequence of this it became necessary to shut up no less than 1,665 schools, established under provincial Acts, thus depriving no less than 40,000 scholars of the means of instruction.

'The party of the Legislative Council,' says Mr. Roebuck, 'are usually uncommonly pathetic in their lamentations over the ignorance of the Canadian population. The true worth of their hypocritical whining is here made manifest. They talk of ignorance, and deprecate it, so long as such talk forwards, or seems to forward, their paltry purposes. They willingly do all they can to foster and continue ignorance, the moment that by so doing the same vile ends may be served.'—*Existing Difficulties*, p. 39.

The Six Months' Supply Bill (a measure worthy of occasional imitation in the Imperial Parliament) was carried on the 23d of