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AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

OR REFORMER OF PUBLIC ABUSES, AND RAILWAY AND MINING INTELLIGENCE.

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LITERATURE.

EIGHT YEARS IN CANADA, &c.

EMBRACING A REVIEW OF THE SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIONS OF LORDS DURHAM AND SYDENHAM, SIR CHARLES BAGOT, AND LORD METCALFE;

And Dedicated to the Memories of THE FIRST AND LAST OF THESE DISTINGUISHED DEAD.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "ECARTE," &c.

DE OMNIBUS REBUS ET QUIBUSDAM ALIIS.

[A difficulty of arrangement having occurred with the only two London publishers to whom the following pages have been submitted, the Author has decided on reversing the usual practice, and publishing in Canada first, thus affording that means of direct communication with other metropolitan publishers, which his absence from London renders a matter of much inconvenience. It will be borne in mind, therefore, by the Canadian reader, that what is now offered to his perusal, was intended for an English public.]

[Deposited at the Office of the Registrar of the Province.]

(CHAPTER V. CONTINUED.)

I moreover concluded, that, although a mistaken impression of the real state of Canada—and the measure in operation for its benefit might, for the moment be entertained in England, but the impression (such as has recently found its way into the House of Lords), was in every sense an erroneous one; when the paper would have had the satisfaction of knowing that, whatever its own politics, the information of its correspondent in Canada had at once been the best and the most impartial. Moreover, I did not feel myself called upon to confine myself merely to facts, without coupling them with the effects produced upon the country by those facts. In one of your letters to me, prior to my departure from England, you thus write—"With the opportunities you will have, and your experience in composition, it will be hard if you do not enable us to outstrip our contemporaries. I should add, however, that it will require extreme caution and diligence, on your part, to satisfy the tribunal to whom your productions will be submitted. You will, of course, make yourself acquainted with our politics in regard to Canada, and keep your views, to a certain extent, in harmony with them, not meaning thereby that you should be other than strictly impartial." How far this agrees with what I now extract from your letter I leave yourself to judge—"It was also impossible for him (the chief editor) to admit such strictures as those you have sent regarding the policy of uniting the two provinces, and your approbation of Lord Durham's administration, seeing the course the paper had taken, would have made it look perfectly ridiculous. He remarked it was quite inconceivable how you could have taken such a course, if you had seen a single copy of the paper since you left England. To have seen the "Chronicle," even, would have been enough, since that paper was constantly referring to the attacks made by us on Lord Durham's policy." However, be this as it may, it will have been known to you, before this can reach England, whether I have correctly described Lord Durham's administration to have been satisfactory to such of the people of this country as are not openly hostile to the British Government—confirmed and irreclaimable rebels. From every part of Canada, it will be seen, addresses of approbation of his policy, and in condemnation of want of proper support by the Ministry who had sent him to this government, have been passed. Of the burning in effigy of Lords Brougham, Glenelg, and Melbourne, amid the deep execrations of a numerous body—nay, almost the whole community of Montreal—I have already acquainted you. These are unusual manifestations of the popular indignation, and it certainly proves no slight excitement in the popular mind when they are resorted to."

It was to me, I confess, a source of great regret that my opinions (which, by the way, that journal has since adopted), should so far have clashed with those of the "Times" as to have led to a disruption, on the score of dissatisfaction with my public commentaries. I would far rather have continued in favor with it, and been entrusted with its private correspondence, than have accepted any situation in Canada which Lord Durham, or any other Governor, could have bestowed upon me. The salary was sufficient, with my half pay, for all purposes of necessary expense, and even of comfort, in the country, and, had my services been transferred to another theatre, would doubtless have been doubled, while the influence the

position gave me far surpassed anything that could have been offered by any provincial political situation whatever.

I, of course, acquainted Lord Durham with the manner in which my defence of his policy had been visited, and received both from himself and Mr. Charles Buller the strongest assurances of their sense of the sacrifices I had made.

Being anxious to take a personal leave of his Lordship, whose departure for England it was reported would very speedily take place, I wrote to Mr. Buller to know what precise day had been fixed upon. His answer stated the 1st of November, and I accordingly left Montreal for Quebec in such time as to arrive early in the morning of the day of embarkation. Everything was bustle and confusion when I called at the Parliament Buildings, which had been fitted up and used as a private residence during the continuance of the Governor-General at Quebec, and carriages, and drays, and waggons filled the court, and were being used for the transport to the Lower Town of all sorts of furniture and effects. I threaded my way through this labyrinth, and soon found myself in the lower apartments, where aids-de-camp and servants were alike actively engaged in packing up whatever was to be removed. This internal demolition (if I may so term it) of the building where I had been accustomed to see everything in the most careful order of arrangement, had in it, associated as it was with the eternal leave-taking of His Excellency, something exceedingly dispiriting, and I could not but be sensible, independently of the political consequences it involved, that in the departure of Lord Durham I was personally and deeply interested. There was not much time, however, for camp in waiting, I requested him to take it up to his Lordship. He replied that he believed I was expected, for, although Lord Durham had given instructions to admit no one that day, an exception had been made in my favor. I followed him up the staircase to his Lordship's study, half denuded of its furniture, where, having announced my name, he retired.

Lord Durham, who was then engaged in writing, rose from his table, advanced to meet me, and taking and warmly pressing me by the hand, and, with much feeling, addressing me by name, "I had not intended to receive any visit on this the day of my departure, but, at the same time, I could not for a moment think of leaving Canada without seeing you."

This was the first time we had met since the commencement of his annoyances, consequent on the singular proceedings in the British Parliament. His Lordship was paler than usual, and I thought I could trace a certain nervousness in the working of his lip, and in the general expression of his countenance, which betrayed the deep mortification he could not but experience.

We conversed for some time on the topic, and, during his remarks, his Lordship manifested a bitterness and contempt for the indecision and want of energy and character of the Ministry, which I thought was well deserved by them, and asked me if I still entertained the same opinions in regard to his resignation which I had once expressed in my last letter to him, adding each time that he would have compromised his own self-esteem had he consented to remain, after so glaring an indignity had been offered to him, as that of the disavowal of measures which all parties in the country were agreed in pronouncing to be the most calculated to insure its tranquillity.

As any arguments I might urge to the contrary, could necessarily weigh but little on the mind of one who had already pronounced his unalterable decision, I did not feel disposed to be in the slightest degree the cause of his being ill at ease with himself, and I replied that his Lordship's frank and condescending explanation, in answer to the advice which, presuming on the confidence reposed in me, I had ventured to offer to him, had been of a nature to remove some of my doubts regarding the propriety and even justifiableness of the resignation, but that I still feared the course, which had in a great degree been forced upon His Excellency, would prove a source of infinite triumph to his enemies at home.

We had been standing all this time near a window of the study which overlooked the beautiful harbour of Quebec, Point Levi, and the country beyond; and as I cast my eyes on the stately frigate which was to convey his Lordship to the noble land for which I myself sighed, I was reminded of the lapse of time, and