

of marble. It was designed and chiselled into a splendid statue. But at the very moment that the finishing touches were about to be given to this superb piece of sculpture, when it was about assuming the warmth and semblance of life and vigour, did the Liberals conspire to stay the progress of the noble work and strike down the artists whose creative genius brought it into existence. Unhappy is the land that bears such vandals offspring!" A triple salvo of applause greeted this beautiful metaphor, which threw the opposition into shame and confusion.

Thus, in 1878, Mr. Angers had reached the zenith of his ministerial career. Visions of future glory and triumph seemed to brighten the horizon before him, when, all at once, the *coup d'Etat* of the 4th March put a period to his usefulness and destroyed the government of which de Boucherville and himself were the main supports.

But Mr. Angers sounded the tocsin of alarm and soon marshalled under arms the entire Conservative forces from one end of the province to the other. He led the opposition, and in thundering accents denounced the arbitrary conduct of Letellier. "The Conservative party," he exclaimed, "is no longer, it is true, in power; but it holds all power in this House; it has a majority here at the Council Board and throughout the country at large. The Conservative party has been unconstitutionally ousted from office, but it still remains uncompromised and spotless, united to a man in defense of the constitution and the public interests."

This was Mr. Angers' last appearance in Quebec in a parliamentary capacity. But he did not relax his efforts to have the instrument of the *coup d'Etat* brought to justice. With what success he accomplished this object, in conjunction with Messrs. Chapleau and Church, is now matter of history.

I may be told here that I am treading on delicate ground, that I should have passed over in silence the *coup d'Etat* of Mr. Letellier, not have emphasized the indignation of Mr. Angers' threat, nor alluded to the subsequent dismissal of the Lieutenant-Governor in 1878. I will answer such objections now, instead of taking them up later, as I had intended.

Exasperating political controversies, to my mind, are not suited to a publication such as this sketch is intended for. However, I must necessarily take up this question, but I hope I will handle it so