

are now circumstanced, what have we to fight for? We have enjoyed very valuable privileges since we became subjects of Great Britain; we had the royal promise for the continuance of that enjoyment. On a sudden, without our having done anything to merit such treatment, we are deprived of those inestimable privileges, and reduced to our former state of slavery. The people whom we are desired to regard as our enemies tell us they are our real friends and they give us convincing proofs of their sincerity.

*They are now in arms for our defence from our oppressors; and they make the repeal of the Quebec Bill one of the conditions on which they offer to lay them down. Which party then ought we to assist? Certainly that one which is fighting for the restoration of that liberty to us, of which we have been wantonly and most cruelly deprived by the other."*

It is further added "this is not the language of that district (Berthier) only; the same is in the mouths of the "most ignorant peasants all over the province."

Carleton promised but did not perform, and therefore did not succeed, notwithstanding his proclamation of martial law, in securing the services of any considerable number of the French peasantry; on the other hand some openly joined the forces of the provincials while the greater number maintained a doubtful neutrality so long as they remained on Canadian soil. Well was it for England that no Papineau arose among them at this time, as nothing would then have prevented the onward course of the provincials to the summit of Quebec Hill and the planting in after days of the Stars and Stripes with a fourteenth star for Canada, on the citadel flagstaff.

Reviewing the events of this period in the light of the present, it is difficult to comprehend the attitude of the French-Canadians (the tiers-état) towards their priesthood, their nobility and their laws, all of which they held so dear and cherished under French regime, in thus openly pro-