

CHAPTER VIII.

IN THE POLITICAL ARENA

The establishment of the little village of Bytown and the possibility of lot No. 40 becoming of great value added zeal to Randall's efforts to recover it. Not being successful in his endeavours to obtain satisfaction in the Courts he decided to appeal to the Parliament of Upper Canada for redress.

This was the period when the feeling between the Reformers and the Family Compact was daily growing more bitter. By 1825 the Reform Party had assumed a distinct form. The Reformers contended for a responsible executive and the Government opposed the contention with sarcastic contempt. There were various other grounds of dispute but this great question overshadowed and practically included them all. The struggle was of the usual political variety aimed at discrediting every move the Government made as a body as well as besmirching the reputation and standing of the individual and prominent members of the Tory Party. In this respect Randall's case lent itself very readily. Through it, the Courts and the Judiciary could be criticised for very apparent defects and failings. The Solicitor General could be painted in colours the reverse of flattering and the dramatic personae illustrated that close relationship between the governing powers that prompted Mackenzie to dub them the "Family Compact".

The leaders of the Reform Party were Rolph, Bidwell, and the Baldwins, father and son. William Lyon Mackenzie, who raised the flag of revolt in 1837 was not then a member of the Assembly, but in the columns of his paper, "The Colonial Advocate", he was assailing the members of the Government with vigor, bitterness and aggression. The leaders of the Family Compact or Government Party were Hon. John Beverley Robinson, the Attorney General; Hon. John Henry Boulton, the Solicitor General; Hon. J. B. McCauley, Mr. Christopher Hagarman and others.

In 1826 a mob had invaded Mackenzie's printing establishment and wrecked it. Among those who had been active in