

Irish Roman Catholics from the conservative party with which up to that time they had generally acted, and assisted by Mr. Drummond, whose style of oratory well fitted him for the task, he succeeded, and from thence forward the Irish have remained steady supporters of the party.

It was made a serious charge against Mr. Hincks that he scattered the seeds of religious animosity, that he made polemics the point on which all arguments turned, and that having great influence he used it to conjure up the most hideous demon that can be let loose on society. We are not aware that he ever met the charge. The circumstances of the times were peculiar; Mr. Hincks had been placed in a false position, no man in the Province had ever been more wantonly attacked, or assailed with greater virulence; he felt and felt deeply those attacks upon his character, and with a mind constituted as his, it would be expecting more than human endurance to suppose he would not retaliate.

The retirement of Mr. Draper and Mr. Smith in 1847 rendered a reformation of the administration necessary; during the session of the year the ministry were reduced to the smallest possible majorities; they were becoming unpopular in Upper Canada, and unfortunately the revenue was in no very favorable state. Our customs duties had decreased—and we merely state the fact without inquiring into the reasons or the policy—when we assert that business men throughout the Province without regard to party politics, began to look to Mr. Hincks as the only man who could remedy the evil. One appointment above all others prepared the way for the defeat of the Sherwood-Viger Cabinet, that of Mr. Turcotte to the Solicitor-Generalship East. Had the government sought for the man most distasteful to their party in Upper Canada they could not have been more happy in their choice, so that when in December, 1847, contrary to the advice of their best friends, they determined to go to the Country without one single question which could be made a rallying point; as may be expected, they were defeated at the polls.

The returning officer for the County of Oxford, acting on erroneous advice, and grounding his decision on some alleged informality in the qualification of Mr. Hincks, returned his opponent Mr. Carroll although in a minority; this return the House not only set aside but addressed the Governor General, praying he would be pleased to remove Mr. Vansittart from certain offices which he held.

No sooner was he sworn in as Inspector General than Mr. Hincks turned his attention to the Tariff, he abolished as far as possible the specific duties imposed by Mr. Cayley, substituting *ad valorem*, he at once instituted a more perfect system of customs house accounts and returns, and rendered defalcation all but an impossibility. Our whole