

sional success were ended ; that the provincial government was opposed to him in all its branches, and that he would consult his own happiness and interest by departing from Upper Canada.

About this period Mr. Bidwell received a gross insult and suffered from a great outrage. His wife had been for some years in delicate health, so that her winters had been spent either at the South or in the West Indies. During his absence from home professionally, Sir Francis Head's government seized his letters in the post-office, and at his house all his private papers, his wife's letters among them, and read their contents to try and get evidence of his complicity with the rebellion.

This outrage, as the complicity never existed, of course failed in its object. But its effect on Mr. Bidwell was so great, that in connection with Sir Francis Head's threats before referred to, he *did* leave Upper Canada with all his family, and came to the city of New York at the end of the year 1837.

The next year Sir Francis Head was recalled in disgrace, and a new governor sent out, Sir George Arthur. On the return of the Reform party to power, which however did not occur for some time, Mr. Bidwell was not only requested to return to Canada, but was again tendered a seat in the Court of Queen's Bench. This was in the year 1842. Mr. Bidwell, however, declined to go back, refused the Judgeship, and remained in New York.

Sir Francis Head felt that he had acted intemperately in Mr. Bidwell's case and it is to his credit that he admitted it to Mr. Bidwell. When Sir Francis came to New York on his return to England in 1838, he wrote to Mr. Bidwell requesting him to come and see him. The interview took place at the old City Hotel in Broadway, just above Trinity Church (on the site of which the Boreel Building now stands), where Sir Francis was staying. Sir Francis told him he regretted the severity of his action, that he had been led too far by political excitement and trouble, and urged his return to Canada. Mr. Bidwell heard him quietly to the end, and then calmly but strongly giving him his own view most fully of his whole conduct and action from the beginning, ended by stating that never under any circumstances would he return to a land where he had been so badly treated, and politely bade him a good afternoon.

On arriving at New York Mr. Bidwell met with most kind treatment from the late Chancellor Walworth, and that unrivalled real property lawyer, the late eminent Mr. George Wood. Both interested themselves strenuously in his behalf. He was admitted to the Bar of New York, on motion, both in the Supreme Court and in the Court of Chancery, notwithstanding his being a British subject, the courts taking the then British view, that no man can expatriate himself, and as Mr. Bidwell had been born in Massachusetts, he was already an American citizen.

By Mr. Wood he was introduced to the late distinguished Mr. George Strong, with whom in September, 1838, he formed a professional partnership which was only terminated by the death of Mr. Strong in 1855, and which was continued with that gentleman's son and nephew, the surviving members of the firm, till his own decease.

The first important case in which Mr. Bidwell was engaged in New