

December 21st, 1794, to the Colonial Secretary recommending the establishment of municipal corporations in Upper Canada, Governor Simcoe ventured to impress upon the latter the wisdom of the principle of rendering "the province as nearly as may be a perfect image and transcript of the British Government and Constitution," we find the Duke of Portland in a reply of May 20th, 1795, somewhat casting cold water upon his enthusiasm by saying, "I have entered purposely more at large into these proposed measures because I have observed that your adoption of them arises from an idea that by assimilating the modes of the government of the provinces to the modes of the government of England you will obtain all the beneficial effects that we receive from them, whereas to assimilate a colony in all respects to its Mother Country is not possible, and if possible would not be prudent. The one may have many institutions which are wholly inapplicable to the situation of the other;" and he adds that "some may be objectionable in a colony as tending to lessen the authority which the parent state ought to possess over it as long as that relation exists between them" (*p*¹). And all possibility of calling the Constitution of Canada the very image and transcript of the British Constitution soon ceased by the full development of responsible parliamentary government in Great Britain, while in Canada the executive continued to be appointed by the Governor at his own discretion, subject to confirmation by the Imperial authorities; and it may be fairly enough said that what the great body of reformers in Upper Canada aimed at was to make the Canadian Constitution once more worthy of that description by securing that the Crown should in Upper Canada as at home entrust the administration of affairs to men possessing the confidence of the Assembly (*q*).

The culmination of the free trade movement in England

(*p*¹) The originals of these despatches are in the Record Office, London. The above extracts are from copies in the possession of Mr. Justice Hodgins, of the Admiralty Court, Toronto.

(*q*) Bourinot's Constitutional Manual, p. 37n.