

in any parliamentary system, when even it possesses the most ample of rights and privileges. Bordager and Bedard were men in no way deficient in power, but they were always ready to push matters to extremes as if ignorant that politics is essentially a science, the ruling principle of which is often that of compromise. Above all, they appear never to have thought that the true Statesman avoids every cause of needless irritation to an opponent. The great fault of the *Canadien* was to pander to the discord of the hour. Wit in its pages in no way exists; but it knew how to touch the chord of jealous national susceptibility. Thus we read—*" Dans le dictionnaire ministeriel : mauvais sujet anti-ministeriel—democrat, sans-culotte et damné [sic] Canadien veulent dire la même chose."*

Any wise and prudent ruler would here end the crisis in a different mode to Sir James Craig. He would have shewn the French Canadian that England was no respecter of persons, that the old and new subjects were equal in her eyes. He would have snubbed the clique of insolent toadies who were deceiving him for their own ends,—and as Lord Durham did later, he would have treated with contempt the insolent airs and underbred pretentiousness of the Government official women. In an evil hour for himself, this most honest and worthy of men acted otherwise. Listening to his irresponsible advisers, he dismissed five prominent French Canadian gentlemen from the militia, on the ground of being proprietors of a seditious and libellous publication. Only that the exception can be found in his own government, no more arbitrary stretch of power can be met in any country under British rule. These gentlemen were Messrs. Pourt, Bedard, Taschereau, Borgia and Blanchet. When it is recollected that this step was taken within eight months after Craig's arrival in Canada, we can estimate the extent of the passion which misrepresentation had instilled into his mind.