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## INTRODUCTION.

## THE CANADIAN MOVEMENT.

## BY BENJ. KINGSBURY, JR.

THE true history of this movement is yet to be written; and, when written, it will be a triumphant vindication of the patriotic spirits engaged in it. Justice may move slowly, but it is certain.

The policy of the British government toward its colonies is well known. It is, and ever has been, to get as much out of them as possible, at the smallest cost.

This policy has been steadily pursued ever since the infamous and cowardly treaty of Paris, in 1763. The people have been peeled, crushed, deprived of nearly every right, fined, taxed, imprisoned, until, from men, they have been reduced almost to the level of things.

We lack space — neither is it in unison with the design of this work — to enter into minute detail relative to the past history of the Canadas. A rough outline must suffice.

When New France was made over to England, the bulk of the population was of French descent, and so continues, although the immigration of Anglo-Saxons has reduced the proportional majority. It would seem that toward this important class true policy would have dictated conciliation; but the Court of St. James thought otherwise. Their rights of property have been violated, and, until very recently. they have been excluded from every place of honor or emolument. This proscription, together with a succession of unremitting exactions and petty oppressions, has kept them in a state of semi-revolt. Like gunpowder, the spark was but wanting to cause an explosion.

But tyranny stopped not with this insulted class. The iron hand has been laid upon the whole people. The British government threw a "tub