

His Lordship's personal acquaintance with Upper Canada.

Majesty, to doubt, or at all events to receive with caution, the statements he has set forth with respect to the social and political condition of a province, in which he never resided; and with which he had scarcely any personal acquaintance. His Lordship's personal observation was confined to his passing up the River St. Lawrence, and crossing Lake Ontario, in a steam-boat, occupied exclusively by his family and suite; a four days' sojourn at the Falls of Niagara, and a twenty-four hours' visit to the Lieutenant-governor at Toronto.

Your committee are not called upon to examine or offer any opinion upon that part of his Lordship's report which relates to the affairs of Lower Canada. It is, however, evidently drawn up with much greater care, and, they believe, with far greater accuracy, than that portion of it which relates to this province.

Examination of Lord Durham's Report in respect to Upper Canada. Disturbances in Lower Canada arise from contest between races. Dissensions in Upper Canada from jealousy between three classes.

They will therefore proceed at once to the examination of those opinions and observations of his Lordship which most seriously affect this community. Lord Durham ascribes, and your committee believe truly, all the dissensions and disturbances that have occurred in Lower Canada, to a contest between races of different origin, British and French Canadians; and, forgetful of the mischievous tendency of his remarks, he intimates that the political dissensions in this province are to be traced to a jealousy or disagreement between three classes, and a contest among them for the emolument and patronage of office.

First class.

The first of these, his Lordship (borrowing with questionable taste a newspaper *sobriquet*) designates as "the family compact," and he informs Her Majesty that "the bulk of the party consists, for the most part, of native-born inhabitants of the colony, or of emigrants who settled in it before the last war with the United States." The second is stated to be formed by a body of the same class of persons, called "reformers;" and the third class comprises, according to his Lordship's opinion, emigrants from the United Kingdom who have settled in the province since the war above referred to.

Second class.

Third class.

The standing of the first class.

It is alleged by Lord Durham, that the first party mentioned by him, "for a long time receiving accession to its numbers, possessed almost all the highest public offices; by means of which, and its influence in the executive council, it wielded all the powers of government; it maintained influence in the legislature, by means of its predominance in the legislative council, and it disposed of the large number of petty posts, which are in the patronage of the government, all over the province. Successive governors, as they came in their turn, are said to have either submitted quietly to its influence, or, after a short and unavailing struggle, to have yielded to this well-organized party the real conduct of affairs. The bench, the magistracy, the high offices of the episcopal church, and a great part of the legal profession, are filled by the adherents of this party; by grant or purchase they have acquired nearly the whole of the waste lands of the province; they are all powerful in the chartered banks, and till lately shared among themselves, almost exclusively, all offices of trust and profit. The bulk of this party consists, for the most part, of native-born inhabitants of the colony, or of emigrants who settled in it before the last war with the United States;" and his Lordship declares that never was the power of the party so extensive or so absolute as it now is.

His Lordship's reason why dissatisfaction has been created.

The High Commissioner, in thus describing a class of persons who are evidently held in slight estimation by his Lordship, has been unable to find, or, at all events, he does not state any objection to its members on the ground of want of ability or patriotism; he does not question their loyalty, and he admits that they are numerous, and possess much property and great influence; but that, in consequence of their having monopolized the power and patronage of the government, they have excited envy, created dissatisfaction, and have ultimately provoked attack; and it is plain, that, entertaining the same sentiments with their opponents, his Lordship thinks it necessary that they should be put down, and that the authority and influence of the Crown should for that purpose be thrown into the scale of the second class, whom his Lordship designates "reformers;" among whom, however, he says, "it cannot be doubted that there were many who wished to assimilate the institutions of the province rather to those of the United States than to those of the mother country."

Lord Durham thinks that first class should be put down to make way for the second, notwithstanding their doubtful standing.

There are two aspects in which these opinions of his Lordship may be regarded, equally unfavourable to his penetration as a statesman and his character as a safe adviser of the Crown. It could not fail to strike a man of ordinary understanding, that if the "compact" were so numerous, and composed of the class of persons he describes, they must have acquired the influence they possess naturally, and as a matter of course, and not by any dishonourable means; and it would be difficult to persuade any one that the government of the country could be carried on without their support; and certainly there is something inexplicable in the opinion intimated by his Lordship, that they should be cast aside to make way for another party, "many of whom," his Lordship says, "wished to assimilate the institutions of the province rather to those of the United States than to those of the mother country!" But your committee have a higher duty to perform than criticising the language, or endeavouring to fathom the meaning, of the Earl of Durham. They feel themselves equally bound to vindicate their fellow-subjects of both classes. It is somewhat singular to find it represented that the reformers of this province complain of the existence or influence of "a family compact," composed of persons who are represented to be of the same origin with themselves; but, whatever may be the opinion of others, your committee believe that the differences which have existed in the province have proceeded from political disagreements that have unhappily grown up in this as in every other community, and not from envy of each other's prosperity; and although true it is that the ranks of the reformers have been disgraced by men who have turned traitors to their country, yet the great body of that class of persons profess to lament the circumstance with as much intensity of feeling as any other; and your Committee believe, that however much they may feel gratified at finding their political sentiments on the subject of the

These opinions unfavourable to his Lordship as a statesman and an adviser of the Crown. First class acquired their influence by honourable means.

Quite inexplicable that the second class should supplant the first, considering their object.

Vindication of both classes.

Differences have arisen on political questions and not from envy of the other's prosperity.

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