

CHAPTER III.

SIR JOHN COLBORNE AT YORK.—LEGISLATION.—NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.—OSGOODE HALL.—UPPER CANADA COLLEGE.—PRICES.—GAME AND WILD PIGEONS.

SIR JOHN COLBORNE was another military Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada; not uninvested with historical associations; reproachless in character; nay, given to high and chivalrous aims, in every post to which duty had called him; tall, picturesque and soldierly in form; a general officer, who, like Sir Peregrine Maitland, had held an important command at Waterloo, and previously been distinguished in the Peninsula. In Gleig's "Lives of Eminent British Military Commanders," his name frequently occurs in connection with that of Sir John Moore, at whose death he was present; and in Sir William Napier's "History of the War in the Peninsula," the ecoinium is passed upon him of being "a man of singular talent for war." He bore about with him conspicuous evidence of being one who had known the shock of battle. A mutilated shoulder, and a right arm partially disabled, were signs and seals of heroism, impressed on his person at the storming of Ciudad Rodrigo.

Sir John Colborne promised to be an excellent transition Governor for Upper Canada; being more genial and frank in manner than his predecessor; less disposed to yield himself up implicitly to the traditional local advisers; and more inclined to recognize popular rights, and respect the freedom of the press. To have thrust upon him their grievances so pointedly as they did, at the very moment of his arrival at York, was impolitic on the part of the reforming party. It was not to be expected that the new Governor would instantly make sweeping changes, or that he would at once, by his acts, pronounce a condemnation on the conduct of the ruler whom he had just succeeded. The impatience of the party forced him to take up a position which at first he was not at all disposed to assume. Here is a passage from an address of welcome presented to Sir John Colborne by "His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the inhabitants of York and its vicinity," but not signed, nevertheless, we may be sure, by a goodly number of those inhabitants: "We cannot conceal from your Excellency, without a sacrifice of candour, that there are many very