

all who by the act of union lost this privilege. The promise was kept, and the total indemnity amounted to £1,260,000.*

"Thus was accomplished by violence and corruption the destruction of the Irish parliament, not without raising in Ireland whatever national love and patriotism remained.

"After the parliamentary vote, the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Castle-reagh, made in the lower house a motion of course, to expedite the bill in the ordinary way. "And I," ejaculated a member of the house (O'Donnell)—"I ask that the bill may be burnt." "Yes," added another member (Tighe), "burnt by the common hangman."

As regards the absorption of the Canadians, England thought herself justified, immediately after the Conquest, in acting vigorously; but, as we have remarked, the American Revolution made her retrace her steps. The old colonies having thrown off her yoke, she waited till the English and Protestant population were in a majority in the colonies which remained to her in North America. We have seen in this work what was her conduct in this respect from 1775 to 1840. She obstinately refused the most salutary reforms so long as Lower or French Canada had a separate government, and an elective chamber in which there was a French-Canadian majority. As soon as the union of the two provinces was consummated in 1841, not only all that the Canadians had asked for in vain for half a century was granted, but much more; because it was known that they were in a greater minority in the government and legislature than in the population, and that if they liked to oppose the new state of things they could be dispensed with; while, if they supported the new system, they would only be the instruments, as the Scottish and Irish representatives had been and still were the instruments of the Imperial parliament.

Although the greater part of the English-speaking inhabitants of Canada were Scotch or Irish, or of Scottish or Irish origin, England did not fear to entrust them with the new power organized for Canada; because she knew that interest would stifle their old hatred to a similar *régime*, and would make them forget their own country and address themselves to the present.

Still we do not prophesy the destruction of the French-Canadian community, like that of Scotland and Ireland, because it remains always attached to French nationality, and the future may deceive the calculations of its enemies. In short, the soul of France ceases not to spread

* See Grattan's Speeches, vol. 4, p. 9; and also Gordon, vol. 2.