

official husband—we may add fortunately of those days—we can make the application of the saying to those times. Certainly in this epoch of Canadian history, no little of the political complication is attributable to the intolerable impertinence of the wives of the men who held office. This element of petty jealousies, of small heart burnings, and social affectations, threw its poisonous tinge over more important questions; and it continued until the establishment of responsible government. The first shock against it came from Lord Durham. His successors strangled the Hydra.

The *Quebec Gazette*, started with the view of sustaining this clique, directed its efforts to create what is called a British party. Judged by his professed creed, the French Canadian has always been purely British. His attempts have ever been directed to claim his privilege as such. It is he who reminded Sir James Craig, that these were not the days of the French Intendants. In all the difficulties with which he has had to struggle, he has never been tempted to threaten a southern connection as an extrication from them. Men, however, are always ready to catch at words, and in this case the trap was baited with all that prejudice could suggest. Mr. Cary, the editor of the paper, inaugurated much of the bitterness which subsequently arose. The Assembly, however, were not to be outdone, and on some journalistic criticism, Mr. Berthelot, in his place declared, that Mr. Cary had presumed to interfere with the proceedings of the House. Mr. Cary was taken into custody and very humbly apologised. So he was allowed to return to his vocations. In 1806 the *Canadien* appeared. The proprietors claimed "*la liberté d'un Anglais qui est à présent celle d'un Canadien.*" While "*rien de contraire à la religion, aux bonnes mœurs, ou à l'intérêt de l'état,*" could be admitted. The quarrel accordingly was now ripe and ready; the lists were prepared, and it was evident to any one who looked upon the situation, that a spark was only wanting to set this combustible matter in a blaze.

It was in this embarrassing position of affairs that Sir James Craig arrived in Canada. He landed 18th October, 1807. He was then 57 years of age, forty-two of which he had