

appeal had been taken to the Privy Council in England, where the case now is awaiting a final decision. Most people would have supposed that the fact, that such strong reasons existed for doubting the legality of this mode of taxation, would have been sufficient to prevent the Treasurer from having recourse to it a second time. One peculiarity, however, of the De Boucherville Government seems to be, not merely the indifference but the actual pleasure it always apparently took in setting public opinion at defiance. Mr. Angers' declaration, that he cared not a jot for public opinion, was at first looked upon as an idle piece of braggadocio of more than questionable taste; but the conduct of the whole Cabinet, from the day of the proposal of the railway resolutions to the day of their dismissal, showed a fixed determination to set at nought not only public opinion, but the most sacred bulwarks and safeguards of the Constitution. One after another, protests, remonstrances, resolutions, petitions, deputations, were cast to one side without ceremony or hesitation, until at last, in their mad career, Mr. DeBoucherville and his fellow-conspirators resolved to disregard and over-ride the privileges of the Crown, and treat the representative of Her Majesty with the same brutal insolence they had shown to the Quebec deputation.

One of the chief misfortunes of the Quebec Cabinet is that, though more than sufficiently supplied with Attorneys, there was not a lawyer to be found among them, except perhaps Mr. Chapleau, and his utterances since the dissolution on the constitutional question, if conveying his earnest opinion and not intended for mere political purposes, certainly do not speak well for his attainments as a well read constitutional jurist. Mr. Church's qualifications had been already proved during his term of office as Attorney-General, to be of the most humble kind. Both he and Mr. Angers seem from the first to run away with the notion that anything can be made law, by passing both houses and obtaining the Royal sanction. Such is not the case, fortunately for those who find themselves under the rule of such men as composed the late Ministry. In reference to this subject, the following words taken from "Cooley's Constitutional Limitations," are well worthy of note:—"An unlimited power to make any and everything lawful which the Legislature might see fit to call taxation, would be, when plainly stated, an unlimited power to plunder the citizen." In the same chapter, on the Power of Taxation, the following rule