

second, and perhaps equally important in the establishment of British institutions in direct antagonism to the republican institutions founded by the thirteen colonies. These two events form the groundwork of the continental cleavage which I set out to consider.

The next problem with which British statesmen had to deal was the confirmation of the Canadian colonies in loyalty to the Mother Country. They were very near to the Republic just organized; were they not in danger of being influenced to demand concessions from the British Parliament, which would be incompatible with British connection? The Government of France was the ally of the thirteen colonies in their revolt; would not France come also to the rescue of the Canadians if they hoisted the revolutionary flag? Was the new Republic prepared to admit them to the union without any curtailment of their civil and religious privileges, or would Britain extend these privileges so that in all respects they would possess as near as may be the same privileges under a colonial government as they could hope to receive under the government of the United States? These were, no doubt, some of the questions which British statesmen asked with some anxiety. And here again, as at the conquest of Quebec, a policy of conciliation was adopted and an effort made to show the Canadians that colonial government was not incompatible with allegiance to Britain, and that every privilege of citizenship that a Republic could confer was attainable under British rule. Anything short, however, of a voice in the administration of their own affairs, it was quite evident, would not restrain the animosity with which the French-Canadians regarded British authority. They had outgrown military rule and military courts and the administration of the country through a Council not of their own choice. And so the desired relief was granted by the concession of a new Constitution, known as the Constitutional Act of 1791, by which all their former privileges were reaffirmed with the additional privilege of a Parliament to which they could send the representatives of their choice, who would presumably govern them according to their own conceptions of civil and religious liberty. And here permit me to notice that, no doubt fearing the buoyant republicanism of the seceding colonies, the British Government held its hand firmly upon its Canadian subjects lest they should become too democratic and too independent of the Mother Country. This control was exercised in three ways:

(1) Over each province the British Government appointed