

ever checked all similar attacks. From that hour he remained unmolested by those who had been so eager in assailing him during his absence. He never in his turn became the assailant. Public opinion had done him such complete justice in the matter of the Ordinance that, if he had brought it again before Parliament, it must have been for the purpose of assault, not of self-defence. When at the close of the session the question of the future government of Canada came before the House of Lords, he contented himself with a short speech, in which he neither defended himself nor attacked others, but, approving of the policy of ministers in postponing final legislation on the subject, emphatically impressed on the House of Lords the principles on which he thought that their conduct towards Canada ought to be shaped. At the moment, perhaps, the vindication of measures unjustly condemned and thwarted, and the triumphant assertion of his own policy by dint of argument and eloquence, might have given more satisfaction to his friends. But now we may with far higher and purer pride look back to the forbearance which he displayed, recollecting that, when all others thought most of his personal position and wrongs, he said nothing of them. True to the public principles of his past life, he allowed no impulse of anger, no scheme of ambitious aggrandizement out of the many assiduously suggested to him, to turn him from the course which, independently of all personal considerations, he judged to be the best calculated to serve his country. To the last day of his life his influence was steadily and effectually employed in repressing those feelings on the part of his political friends which, if uncontrolled by him, would on many an occasion have given the finishing blow to the existence of Lord Melbourne's ministry. More active exertions in the general field of politics, and the consequent attainment of the power of more effectually serving his country in office, we might have expected, had he possessed the health which had been the spring of his former energy. This it pleased Providence to deny us; but his hard fate could not deprive him, during the period that followed his return from Canada, of the opportunity of exhibiting a generous forbearance and an unselfish love of country.

Nor need we look with any dissatisfaction to the fruits of his mission. That these were at first less obvious and less abundant than they should have been was not his fault, but that of those whose misconduct cut short the brilliant and useful career of his administration, and compelled him to leave to others the execution and completion of what he had