

where young Mackenzie had settled a few months before. Lord Metcalfe was, as Mr. Mackenzie tells us (*Life of George Brown*, page 4), "wholly unsuited for the duties of a constitutional Governor, from the natural bent of his mind, as well as from the nature of his experience in public life, in India and Jamaica." He was "an autocrat in spirit," and had a lofty contempt for the opinions and capabilities of colonists. The result was, in brief, that he attempted almost from the moment of his arrival, to undo the work of his predecessors, and bring the country again under the arbitrary and irresponsible rule against which it had rebelled. In a short time he managed to get rid of the stronger and more resolute members of his cabinet, and for nearly a year he ruled the country with only three advisers. During two months of that period there was but a single minister, all the others having resigned. To quote Mr. Mackenzie again, "There was a sudden resurrection of evil principles of government which were supposed to have been buried too deep to be restored." "All the retrogressive elements of society were called into active life in order to sustain the reactionary Governor-General."

Mr. Mackenzie very soon began to take a hand in the conflict. It is probable that his familiarity with the struggle for freedom from State control in religious matters, in his native land, which had just been brought to an end by the secession of a majority of the members of the Scottish national Church, may have served as a good training school for him in those principles of religious liberty of which he became so uncompromising a champion. He first entered the lists in Canada as a contributor to the Western press. It is not probable that he took a very active part in the struggle until after the retirement of Lord Metcalfe, in 1847. With the successor of the latter, Lord Elgin, came in a new order of things. The principles of responsible government were honestly recognized. But there were still keenly contested battles to be fought before the old order could be changed and the new principles, of which responsible government was the harbinger, given full play.

During the next twenty years, or up to the time of Confederation, the struggle went on, though now happily under better auspices and in accordance with constitutional methods. Mr. Mackenzie was henceforth in the front, first as a newspaper