

a year later, Lord Durham tried to apply another ruling of the British Parliament that had voted down Lower Canada's popular government, he found such strong and orthodox opposition, that he secretly admitted the rights of the people and proposed, by correspondence, what he thought would be the most commendable form of popular government. In Upper Canada, the people's grievances were not so profoundly serious; and the rebellion, there, was more the effect of antagonism between the parties, than of popular dissatisfaction with England. That is why it is more difficult to defend Mackenzie's conduct than that of the Lower Canadian rebels. The latter had the same right for rising into mutiny as had the Americans, half a century before, they simply followed England's own example, with the difference that they had no king to slay or to drive out of his kingdom.

But the historical importance of the rebellion does not consist so much in its causes as in its effects. And with these especially we are concerned, as they show a further development in the growth of Canada's responsible government. As was proposed by Lord Durham's report, the Canadians of both provinces secured what they had long been hoping and fighting for. Not later than 1841, and due especially to the energetic protestations of the near totality of both voters and representatives, a responsible government was voted into existence. Then and there England yielded to her colony what she had secured for herself; the Executive was made responsible to the Assembly; but the Legislative Council was not made elective.

In the course of the next few years, things did not run as smoothly as had been anticipated, but the fault was with the Governors, who did not know enough to remain in their sphere of action and refused to comply with the rulings of the Government. When finally, in 1847, a more tactful representative came from England, Lord Elgin, the contest was all over; Canada had responsible government.

From then on things ran more smoothly, as far as exterior interference was concerned. Internal troubles only could then arise, and by having in their own hands the power to remedy all evils, the people diminished them considerably; they were more cautious in giving rise to any such difficulty. So it was that responsible government further developed naturally; autonomy was then as complete as it could be, but the system had yet to be perfected. The people had learned the secret of representative government; but they still had a little to learn about the workings of responsible legislation. Very soon, they became aware of the fact