

which drew down upon him bitter retorts and violent denunciations, which he certainly was not backward in repaying with interest.

In 1841, Lord Sydenham formed the first Executive Council of United Canada, in which he brought together as great a body of discordant material as can well be conceived, and in it the post of Finance Minister was assigned to Mr. Hincks, who, in the general election, was returned for the County of Oxford. His first care was to investigate the affairs of the Customs Department, to introduce a more efficient system, and to change the method of paying collectors and other officers. The investigation, then instituted, brought to light many abuses, but we are willing to admit that much partiality and, in many cases, even personal ill feeling was evinced; however, the whole system was placed upon a better footing and much good done. Between Mr. Hincks and Mr. Baldwin a rupture took place, in which the latter gentleman declared that confidence once broken could never be restored. This, however, was soon healed, for in the administration of Sir Charles Bagot, of Sept., 1842, we find them acting together with the greatest sincerity. This administration, in the Session of 1843, attempted to pass a highly unconstitutional act, which greatly incensed the people of Upper Canada, and was one of the leading causes of their retirement, the whole of the ministry going out with the exception of Mr. Daly who retained his place as Secretary. The circumstances attendant on this resignation were such as to wonderfully excite popular prejudices; the most strenuous efforts were made on both sides to insure success; the most powerful revilers were enlisted, and they were not very scrupulous in the use of their weapons. In the Upper Province the conservatives were victorious and returned a large majority of their candidates; the leading radicals were defeated, among them Mr. Hincks, who lost his seat for Oxford, giving place to Mr. Riddle, a relative of the Vansittart family, which had great interest in the county.

The absence of Mr. Hincks from the house was a positive gain to the ministerialists as it left their financial policy without a check. It would be out of place here to do more than allude to the difficulties which were encountered in the formation of the Draper Cabinet; every effort to induce the Canadians to coalesce failed, and the very dangerous attempt was made of throwing open seats in the council chamber to known enemies.

Mr. Hincks, finding himself excluded from Parliament, started a paper in Montreal "The Pilot" in which all his talents were exerted to heap obloquy on his opponents, in it appeared the most violent articles, these attacks led to recrimination and the whole tone of the leading journals was becoming vitiated by personal abuse. The great object of Mr. Hincks and those who acted with him at this period was to detach the