

—a volume of over five hundred pages—invited Mr. Bidwell to converse freely on the subject. Mr. Bidwell did so, and to the Governor's great astonishment told him—to use his own words—"that there were grievances not detailed in that report, which the people had long endured and were still enduring with great patience; *that there was no desire to rebel*, but that a morbid feeling of dissatisfaction was daily increasing; that increase it *would*, and that in fact, if it had not been distinctly stated that the governor was the bearer of new instructions, those with whom he was associated had come to the determination never to meet in provincial parliament again." This interview was the foundation of a political dislike to Mr. Bidwell which in the end changed his whole life and career. Sir Francis, after a little dallying with the reformers, threw himself finally into the arms of the old party. An exciting political contest followed, in which the latter with the aid of the government triumphed at the next general election, and Mr. Bidwell, among others, lost his seat in parliament and retired from active political life.

The Home Government determined on a conciliatory policy, and, in 1837, Lord Glenelg, the British Colonial minister, requested Sir Francis Head to offer to Mr. Bidwell the appointment of Justice of the Court of King's Bench, in which two vacancies had occurred.

This the Governor not only declined to do, but actually gave the appointment to another gentleman. In reporting his action to Lord Glenelg, Sir Francis, after admitting that Mr. Bidwell's legal acquirements were superior to one of the new appointees, and that his moral character was above reproach, says: "Anxious as I am to give talent its due, yet I cannot but feel that the welfare and honor of this province depend on *his Majesty never promoting a disloyal man.*"

Lord Glenelg replied that Mr. Bidwell's former political action should not prevent his professional advancement, and closed by saying: "If, therefore, as you appear to anticipate, another vacancy should occur among the judges of the Court of King's Bench, it is the wish of his Majesty's government that the situation *should be offered to Mr. Bidwell, and they will hear with much pleasure that he has accepted it.*"

But Sir Francis Head took the responsibility of positively refusing to place Mr. Bidwell on the Bench. This was in September, 1837. Sir Francis Head believed that Mr. Bidwell was a republican at heart, and leagued with Mr. Papineau and his friends in Lower Canada in their political action, which was then fast verging towards armed insurrection. This was an entire mistake, the objects of the opposition in the two provinces were entirely dissimilar, and no league or combination existed between them. There was one object however in which both agreed, and that was, the desire for a government responsible to the legislative, and not to the executive power.

Finding that the Home Government meant to promote Mr. Bidwell, Sir Francis Head, fearing the effect upon himself in the province, determined to force Mr. Bidwell to leave the country.

He sent for him and told him that his party was beaten at all points, which was then the fact; that the armed outbreaks which had just occurred in both provinces, and especially MacKenzie's attempt on Toronto, had so embittered the people against him, as he was believed to have covertly approved them, that all his chances of further political or profes-