

ly undeniable, and although there is a vast deal yet to be done, we can scarcely—contrasting Canada as it was ten years ago, and as it is—believe that in so short a time so much has been accomplished.

Lord Sydenham's first care was to endeavour to calm the excited feelings of all parties—to satisfy the disloyal that it was in vain to attempt to uproot the Queen's authority, and to assure those who had loyalty in excess, that that authority was quite sufficient for their protection. This done, his next task, and a difficult one, was to call around him a Special Council, and frame a body of Ordinances to meet the present necessities of the Lower Province, in which there had been a total lapse of legislation, and where martial law had for years taken the place of the ordinary law of the land. He had then to meet the assembled Legislature of the Upper Province, and here one of his chief difficulties arose, from the strong conviction that must have forced itself upon him, and which the sequel proved, that the House—although to dissolve it would have been hazardous, did not truly represent the people. His position in the Upper Province, for a long time, called for the exercise of the utmost prudence and circumspection. The Reformers distrusted him because he denounced responsible government by that name, and the Tories began to suspect that his mode of administering Representative Government, was wide as the poles asunder from that which had obtained under the reign of the Compacts. In spite of all the obstacles which beset him, he succeeded in carrying the Union Bill, and several other important measures through both branches of the Legislature in the Upper Province, and through the Special Council.

These measures passed, an anxious period succeeded, in which they were to be reviewed by both Houses of Parliament. No man who knew what that ordeal was—who felt how deeply the peace of Canada, and his own reputation were committed—and who had Lord Durham's recent experience of the inconsiderate violence of English party warfare before him, could have slept on a bed of roses, from the time that the Union Bill and Ordinances crossed the Atlantic, until they returned, sanctioned by the highest authority in the realm. A part of this interval was spent by Lord Sydenham, in visiting Nova Scotia, and conducting the investigation into her affairs, which led to the entire change of that disastrous policy, and the repudiation of those principles, which had for years embroiled the people with their government, and brought at last the Legislature and the Executive into open and violent collision.

The Union Bill having been sanctioned, then came the period of its proclamation—of the arrangement of the Electoral districts—and of the return of the members of the first Parliament. This was a season of much labour, and of intense anxiety, drawing upon the Governor General's firmness, sagacity and knowledge of the country, almost every hour. Whether the charge of direct interference in Elections be well founded or not, and it appears to rest upon