

QUEBEC UNDER TWO FLAGS

United States generously responded to the call for help, and soon a fund of \$500,000 was placed at the disposal of the committee, and much of the town was rebuilt in a more substantial manner. Quebec was to pass through another ordeal of fire. In the month of June, 1846, a fire was discovered in a theatre near Durham Terrace, and over forty persons lost their lives thereby. Lord Metcalfe when leaving Quebec gave the sum of \$2,000 towards the sufferers from the Quebec fires. Lord Cathcart was the next Governor. Under his régime the Militia Act was passed which gave great satisfaction to the majority. Lord Elgin, who succeeded Cathcart in 1847, was one of the most popular governors of Canada. He had already a good reputation as an able administrator, and was familiar with the administrative machinery necessary for the government of a colony. In reply to an address which was presented to him in the city of Montreal, he said :

“ You are pleased to observe, that the knowledge
“ of public affairs acquired by me in the Imperial
“ Parliament, and in other situations of high trust,
“ justifies the hope that I shall be guided in the
“ exercise of my functions by the great Constitutional
“ principles familiar to the British statesman. It will
“ be my study and anxious endeavour to verify these
“ favourable expectations. The powers of self-govern-
“ ment, to which your constitution allows such free
“ scope, are given for wise purposes, to enable the
“ people to exercise a salutary influence on the action
“ of government and to render government itself a
“ more powerful instrument for good, by securing
“ for it confidence and support : if ever these supports