

and weaknesses of others to his own account. Though neither a thorough nor a profound statesman, he was at least a very clever politician, and it is doubtful whether any man could have been found throughout the broad realm of England better fitted, alike by nature and by training, to carry out Lord Durham's policy in Canada than was the Right Honourable Charles Poulett Thompson.

"The crowning work of his life, and that which renders his career specially interesting to Canadians, was his successful inauguration of the Union. For this he is entitled to whatever credit attaches to the measure itself. The conception was due to Lord Durham, the execution to Lord Sydenham. He lived long enough to see the new constitutional system fairly set going, but not long enough to encounter the inevitable strain to which, sooner or later, it was certain to be subjected. In this sense it may be said that he was as fortunate in his death as in his life. Had life and health been spared to him, and had he remained in Canada, some part of the struggle, of which his successors were compelled to bear the brunt, would doubtless have fallen upon his own shoulders."

The Act of Union provided that there should be one Legislative Council and one Legislative Assembly, in which each province should be equally represented. The initiation of all bills, involving the expenditure of public money, was vested in the Government, which must bear the responsibility of the measure; but it must command the support of a majority of the legislature. Thus the great object of years of contention was secured,—the control by the representatives of the people of all the public revenues.

In token of appreciation of his success in carrying out the Imperial policy of union of the Canadas, the Queen was pleased to raise Mr. Thompson to the peerage, with the title of Lord Sydenham of Kent and Toronto. But this distinguished benefactor of Canada was not permitted to witness the full result of his labours, nor the triumph of that system of responsible government which he had assisted in introducing. While out riding, the fall of his horse fractured his leg. His constitution, never robust, and now undermined by his zeal in the discharge of public duty, was unable to withstand the shock. After lingering in great pain a few days, he sank beneath his injuries,