

what was called and what was in fact the French Canadian party against the military governors of that date, but meanness and want of hospitality were never among them. It remained for the last days of the old Province of Canada, and the first decade of the Dominion to see this painful impression entertained. But the political difficulties of the hour were too complicated for the inexperience in political life which, as a rule, marked governor after governor for half a century. Bad advisers, an irresponsible clique intent on their own interest, an unhealthy, social affectation of position—all worked their influence. But the difficulty really was, that, while all felt that the system was bad and a failure, no one saw and picked up the key by which the portal to quiet times could be entered. Never were so impracticable a class as the French Canadian politicians of that hour. That they were calumniated, misrepresented and received ill-treatment is only too true. They managed always to put themselves in the wrong—and it is a striking condemnation that Lower Canada became divided into camps—British and French Canadian. The British settler required good government, equally as much as his French-speaking *confère*, but he was driven into a distinct opposition, based on national prejudices, where better tact would have established twenty years earlier the order of things which both accepted.

The true text-book of Canadian liberty is Lord Durham's Report. Since its recommendations were adopted, there have been struggles and difficulties, but they all have passed away and been accommodated. But in those days there was a continual contest, into which the governor was drawn, and in which really he had no part. Every Canadian Governor, if we except the jack-puddingism and outré airs of Sir Francis Head—acted with dignity and with honour. The blame was not personal in any case. Each governor found a system with a knot of officials able in

their way, but subservient and pliant; and he was taught that the opponents of these men were traitors and anxious for independence or annexation which was the last thought of the French Canadians. Lord Dalhousie, than whom a more noble and generous nature rarely ever existed, accordingly, found his governorship anything but a bed of roses. Mr. Christie, who knew him well, tells us that he frequently regretted the want of success of his government, for he himself felt that he was actuated by the most patriotic motives. If the French Canadians had had a leader worth his salt at that date, Lord Dalhousie was the man he would have conciliated. But the conduct of the French Canadian party was arrogantly offensive. Lord Dalhousie gladly welcomed his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of India, after the retirement of Lord Combermere. He was succeeded by Sir James Kempt, and his last act in Canada, on the morning of his departure, was to place the cap on the monument erected under his auspices to Wolfe and Montcalm, which stands in the Governor's Garden, Quebec.

We have mentioned Lord Dalhousie's name with the respect that it merits—and we venture to think it is the epitaph history will write for him, because it was during his government that the organization was made for the examination of the Saguenay district. This survey was commenced in 1828—one party, under the well-known Joseph Bouchette, ascended the St. Maurice about 150 miles, and taking the tributary La Tuque—crossed to the lakes which empty into Lake St. John, about four leagues above the old Jesuit post of Metobitshuan. They found at this spot the party which had left Quebec and ascended the Saguenay with one Andrew Stuart, who, from the part he had taken in obtaining the appropriation from the Legislature, was named Commissioner. Mr. Bouchette commenced his exploration of the country on the south-west of the Lake to Chicoutimi, and Mr. Stuart returned to