

manners of their own set, to the grim pomposity of the British officials at the head of political life.

It is to these functionaries, assured of their social status, that much of the mischief was due. Appointed by the home government, they were settled in their positions for life, irresponsible to the legislative assembly and to Canadian public opinion; thus, they looked only to the approbation of the colonial office. Most of them had arrived in the province as office holders, and landed with a sense of conscious superiority and of official importance which they never lost. Their theory was that Canada was to be ruled from London, and that the view there of what was politically expedient should alone prevail. All office and emolument was retained in their own hands, or in those of their relatives and *protégés*. Neither French nor British Canadian out of their set could obtain recognition. There was likewise the unwelcome contingency that those holding subordinate offices were liable to arbitrary dismissal, on any unfavourable view of their conduct by government house; and appointments were being constantly given in London to men whose first appearance in Canada was to assume office.

Socially, they visited only among themselves, reciprocating patronage and admitting into their charmed circle the superior officers of the garrison. The superciliousness of the women belonging to this official clique has come down to modern times as a tradition to be wondered at. This pretentiousness was as offensive to the British as to the French Canadian.

But the new subjects could not, or would not, make common cause with the old. The grievance that was a trouble to the French Canadians pressed upon them in a different way, and they resented it unwisely. The anger felt against the arrogant official class, that in modern times can find no defenders, was directed against British institutions and sentiment, indeed, against the whole British race. I will hazard the remark that at this early time the French Canadian was more English than he knew, perhaps more than he cared to admit. To this hour he has no deep sympathy with a