

item, a part only of the supplies. The restriction was not consented to by those who represented the people in the Legislative Assembly. Such a state of things could not continue without leading to a collision; and the events of 1837 justified the apprehension of those who had all along warned the Government that it was impossible for the people any longer to endure so flagrant a violation of their rights, and that there was imminent danger of exhausting their patience. Events followed each other rapidly, and the clergy then, as at this time, were opposed to any energetic demonstrations. Monseigneur LARTIGUE, Bishop of Montreal, published a pastoral letter, in which he said: "Who will dare assert that the whole people of this country desire the destruction of the Government?" Mr. SPEAKER, no one desired it; but the minority at that period, like the minority at present, complained of the injustice they suffered, and the clergy were opposed to them. The minority of that day struggled for the political rights of the people as they are struggling now, and they found arrayed against them every powerful influence and all established authorities. This contrast points to a fact deserving of notice. To-day the Government constantly insult us by crying out: "You represent nothing in this House; public opinion is against you!" Well, Mr. SPEAKER, I ask the Hon. Attorney General for Lower Canada whether he himself and his honorable colleague the Prime Minister, had the majority of the Lower Canada people and clergy with them when, in 1837, they protested energetically against the injustice done to their fellow-countrymen? No, Mr. SPEAKER, at that time they formed part of the little phalanx who went so far as to raise the standard of rebellion on the plains of St. Denis and St. Charles! How times are changed! At the present moment the same men, the revolutionists of former days, strain every nerve to deprive the people of the right of pronouncing for or against the constitutional changes sought to be forced upon them. So complete a forgetfulness of their own past is extremely deplorable. Mr. SPEAKER, for weighty reasons, I do not desire to dwell on the events of 1837. In 1838 there remained to be brought on the trials of those who had been implicated in the troubles. Lord DURHAM found himself placed in an embarrassing position, for it is always difficult for a government to carry on political prosecutions; by such a course it frequently loses its strength and its popularity.

To escape from the difficulties of the moment, the Governor resolved to adopt a great measure. On the day of the coronation of Queen VICTORIA he proclaimed a general amnesty, and granted pardon to all the Canadians, except twenty-four of the most earnest of the revolutionary party. It is important, Mr. SPEAKER, to know who were the twenty-four daring revolutionists against whom the British Government displayed so much severity, and against whom the clergy had pronounced so strongly. These men were Messrs. WOLFRED NELSON, R. S. M. BOUCHETTE, BONAVENTURE VIGER, SIMÉON MARCHESSAULT, H. A. GAUVIN, T. H. GODIN, ROD. DESRIVIÈRES, L. H. MASSON, LOUIS J. PAPINEAU, C. H. COTÉ, JULIEN GAGNON, ROBERT NELSON, E. B. O'CALLAGHAN, ED. ET. RODIER, T. S. BROWN, LUDGER DUVERNAY, ED. CHARTIER, Ptre., G. ET. CARTIER, J. RYAN, Jr., Ls. PERRAULT, P. L. DEMARAY, J. F. DAVIGNON, and Ls. GAUTHIER. Thus, Mr. SPEAKER, among those sanguinary men I find the Honorable Attorney General for Lower Canada (Hon. Mr. CARTIER). (Hear, hear.) Far be from me the thought of reproaching him with his conduct at that period. I have always looked upon it as that of a patriot and of a true friend of his country. Besides, that honorable member has declared to us on many occasions that he did not regret the struggles which he had formerly maintained in order to claim the political liberties of his country, and I can perfectly understand that he does not waver in those sentiments, for it is now an historical fact that all those who took part in those struggles nobly staked their lives for their convictions, and the minority then, like the present minority, could expect nothing but misinterpretation of their opposition to power. It is not for me to decide how far this insurrectionary movement was excited by the deplorable circumstances of the time, but I am perfectly satisfied that those who were at the head of it were impelled by sentiments of patriotism, by the generous desire of obtaining for their fellow-countrymen the political liberties which were refused them. They have therefore laid their country under a great debt of gratitude for the sacrifices which they made. Now see, Mr. SPEAKER; the men who, twenty years ago, constituted a revolutionary minority, braved the clergy and raised the standard of revolt against Great Britain, are to-day in a majority and supported by the powerful influence of England and of the clergy, whose entire confidence they possess. They have their