

# NORTH AMERICAN.

[VOL. I.]

Canadian Rights and Canadian Independence.

[NO. 1.]

PUBLISHED BY H. J. THOMAS.

SWANTON, VT. APRIL 10, 1839.

EDITED BY CANADIANS & AMERICANS.

THE NORTH AMERICAN  
IS PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY,  
Price \$1 50 per an. in advance,  
or \$2 00 at the end of the year.

## DOWN THE TYRANTS!

They never fall who die in a great cause;  
The block may soak their gore,  
Their heads may sicken in the sun—their limbs  
be wrung to city gates  
And castle walls, but still their spirit walks abroad;  
Though years elapse, and others share as dark a  
down.  
It but augments the deep and sweeping thought  
Which empowers all others, and which conducts  
The world at last to freedom. BYRON.

People of Canada! Remember that the  
blood of martyrs in the cause of FREEDOM  
calls aloud for vengeance at your hands.  
The following is a list of those who have  
fallen victims of despotism, in the Lower  
Province:

Ch's Ovide Perrault, M. P. P.  
Jean Olivier Chenier, M. D.  
Joseph Toussaint Drolet, MPP.  
Pierre Amiot, M. P. P.  
Jean Francois Lionnais M. D.  
Joseph Narcisse Cardinal, MPP.  
Joseph Duquette, Major of P.A.  
Pierre Theophile Decoigne N.P.  
Ambroise Sanguinet, Lt. P. A.  
Charles Sanguinet, Capt. P. A.  
Francois Xavier Hamelin, do.  
Jacques Robert, Major P. A.  
Chevalier Deloremier, N. P.  
Ch's Hindenlang, Brig. P. A.  
Francois Nicolas, Capt. do.  
Amable Daunais, Lieut. do.  
Remy Narbonne, Capt. do.

## ORIGINAL BIOGRAPHY.

JOSSEPH NARCISSE CARDINAL, one of  
the mildest and most amiable men in the  
world, was executed at Montreal on the  
22d day of December, 1838, for the only  
crime of having manifested his fidelity to  
his country, and his love of freedom, in a  
firm but honorable resistance to trans-  
atlantic tyranny.

Mr. Cardinal was born in 1807: con-  
sequently he was 31 years of age when he  
terminated his mortal career. He was  
a Notary by profession, and resided at  
Chateauguay, county of Laprairie, in the  
district of Montreal. He had studied with  
one of the oldest and ablest Notaries of  
the Province, and having the confidence  
of the people of Chateauguay, was invited  
to settle among them. In 1831 he mar-  
ried the daughter of a government officer,  
by whom he had six children. As soon  
as he had acquired the right of franchise  
he became an active reformer; and in 1834,  
by the unanimous wishes of the electors  
of his county, he became their representa-  
tive in Provincial Parliament. Mr. Cu-  
willier, who till then had been a most for-  
midable political champion, dared not op-  
pose him, and he was therefore elected by  
acclamation, having declared that he ap-  
proved of and upheld the 92 resolutions  
passed by the House of Assembly in Feb.  
1834, which gave a faithful picture of all  
the grievances of which Canada then com-  
plained.

In his parliamentary career Mr. Cardinal  
was invariably seen in that noble majority  
which always represented the true inter-  
ests of the Canadian people, and which  
even Gosford himself could not corrupt.  
As to the reforms demanded with so much  
justice by the House of Assembly, he was  
one of those who would have "all or  
nothing;" and his patriotic devotedness  
in sacrificing his own life, is sufficient proof  
of his sincerity. Could he offer anything  
of greater value, or make a greater sacri-  
fice?

Mr. Cardinal held the rank of Capt. in  
the Provincial militia, but during the reign  
of terror under Lord Gosford, in the sum-  
mer of 1837, when Reformers were not  
allowed to hold any appointment under  
the paternal government of her most ex-

cellent MAJESTY, he thought it his duty  
to send in his resignation. On the rising  
in Nov. 1838, he was made Brigadier Gen-  
eral in the Patriot service.

During the troubles in the fall of 1837, in  
which he at first took no part, he was  
compelled by the threats and the persecu-  
tions of a petty magistrate by the name  
of McDonald, to leave his native land and  
take refuge in Fort Covington, N. Y.  
During his exile he came often to Platts-  
burgh to see Dr. ROBERT NELSON, and he  
declared his conviction that NOTHING  
SHORT OF THE INDEPENDENCE  
OF THE CANADAS OUGHT TO BE  
LISTENED TO. From that instant he  
took an active part in the desperate struggle  
for the emancipation of his country.

After his return to Canada, he directed  
all his efforts to one single object—the  
emancipation of Canada. To this end he  
sacrificed his time, his comforts, his  
property, and his life. On the 3d of Nov.  
last, he was one of the foremost among  
those who raised their arms against the  
haughty and cruel government of mighty  
Britain. Having secured all the loyalists  
in and about Chateauguay, he thought he  
could have some influence over the Indians  
of Sault St. Louis. Consequently on Sun-  
day morning, the 4th of Nov. at sun rise,  
he went with his friend Mr. Duquette,  
with the intention to persuade the Indians  
not to take arms against them. They were  
accompanied by a few friends, who, for  
fear of alarming the Indians, were left in  
an adjoining wood. Alone with Mr. Du-  
quette, he entered the village, and went  
unarmed to a public Inn. During this  
time an Indian woman in going to milk,  
her cow, saw the men in the wood and gave  
the alarm. The result was, that Messrs.  
Cardinal and Duquette were seized, bound,  
and hurried to Montreal, by the treache-  
rous Indians, where they were delivered  
over to COLBORNE, THE DESPOILER OF  
CANADA, whose vestments now reek with  
their blood.

During his trial Mr. Cardinal maintained  
that dignity which was peculiar to him.  
He did not supplicate his enemies for mercy,  
but boldly protested against their right to  
try him before a tribunal created by mar-  
tial law. He was condemned—yet he  
heard his condemnation with calm and  
dignified composure; only replying that  
during the delay he would suffer more  
alone in his dungeon than a thousand  
deaths. He then called for all his papers  
of importance, and applied himself to put-  
ting them in order till the 9th hour of the  
night preceding his execution.

It is said that a tory Catholic Priest  
called on him and urged his spiritual ser-  
vices to prepare him for the unseen world,  
and was answered by Mr. Cardinal that  
his time was so precious, and his mortal  
existence so short, that he should be pleas-  
ed to have him withdraw and leave him  
alone, inasmuch as many families would  
be injured and perhaps ruined if he should  
die without signing the papers before him.  
He continued to sign, and his elegant signa-  
ture was a proof of his continued firmness.  
The day before his death, he saw for the  
last time, the dearest objects of all his  
earthly affections, his beloved wife and  
children; and such a scene—who can  
describe? The tears and caresses of a  
fond and amiable wife, mingled with the  
cries of his lovely innocent ones rendered  
the scene heart-rending in the extreme.  
The thought that the beloved companion  
of her bosom was to be strangled on the  
morrow, was too much for her. That  
scene may be imagined but not described.  
One of the young children asking why her  
father did not come back home, caused  
Mrs. Cardinal to faint several times; and  
her critical situation at the time, caused  
such terrible convulsions that fears were  
entertained about her life. The same day  
she called on lady Colborne, and falling on  
her knees she begged of her in the name  
of God and of humanity to use her influ-  
ence with Sir John to spare her husband's  
life. To all her entreaties lady Colborne  
replied by offering her some few dollars.  
"This is not money that I seek, said Mrs.

Cardinal, with mingled grief and indigna-  
tion, 'tis the life of my unhappy and un-  
fortunate husband, he that is so dear to  
my heart, and to my innocent children,  
that I solicit. She was told coldly that  
her Ladyship would speak to his Lordship  
about it, and Mrs. retired to be a widow  
the next day.

The day before his death, about 4 p. m.  
Mr. Cardinal sent for a friend, and begged  
of him to see that his bier should be cov-  
ered with the pall-cloth made purposely  
for the funeral of the victims of the 21st  
May, 1832, who were murdered by a sol-  
diery, actuated by a hatred of the Canadi-  
an people, and a thirst for blood.

On the morning of his death, after per-  
forming his religious duties, according to  
the rites of the Roman church, to which  
he belonged, as Mr. Cardinal was prepar-  
ing to turn his steps from his gloomy cell  
to the awful scaffold, he all at once be-  
thought himself of some papers that lay  
on the table, which he took up and gave  
to the Provost Marshal, saying—"I feel  
glad that I have thought about these pa-  
pers. Had I forgotten them, it would  
have injured a poor widow. Be so kind  
as to send those papers to their proper ad-  
dress." The executioner was then called  
to make the necessary preparations. Up  
to the last moment of his life he remained  
unchanged and unchangeable in his polit-  
ical views, and apparently resigned to his  
unmerited fate; and passed now and then  
a few words of consolation to his friend  
who was to share it with him. A single  
murmur only was heard from this victim  
of British despotism—"How cruel it is  
to die thus, and die so young;" but im-  
mediately he added—"but my death shall  
be a benefit to my country, and it shall be  
avenged on the tyrants of Canada." Mr.  
C. taking the lead, moved forward with his  
fellow sufferer, quietly, but dignifiedly to  
the place of sacrifice, there to lay down  
his life for his country and the cause of  
freedom. He encountered death with that  
true philosophy which putteth away fear.  
Scarcely had they stepped upon the scaffold  
ere it could be said of the subject of this  
sketch—"he is no more." Not so his  
companion; he suffered long and severely.  
The bodies were delivered over to their  
friends and accompanied to their last abode  
by a numerous concourse of citizens, the  
remains of Mr. Cardinal being covered  
with the pall-cloth of 21st May, in ac-  
cordance with his request.

Such was the end of a man beloved by  
his friends, and respected by his enemies;  
such too was the end of an affectionate  
husband and a kind father; and such the  
end of a PATRIOT. And now it remains  
to be seen if those fiends incarnate, whose  
garments reek with their gore, shall es-  
cape that vengeance which is treasured up  
against them.

Mr. C. was a man of middle stature,  
rather slender, of a dark complexion; eyes  
black. His whole countenance bespoke  
mildness, but at the same time, firmness  
and perseverance.

## EDITORIAL.

SWANTON, APRIL 10, 1839.

In soliciting the patronage of the friends  
of Canadian and American Liberty to sus-  
tain the publication of this paper, we feel  
that we are under the obligation of suggest-  
ing to the community by whom we are  
surrounded, that the want of a public jour-  
nal of the description that we now lay be-  
fore our readers, has been often felt and  
deplored by many of our citizens. The  
devotion of the Vermont press to the polit-  
ical matters of the United States, and to  
other and perhaps to them more interest-  
ing subjects, than the tale of Canadian wrongs  
leaves a large majority of their readers  
nearly in the dark as to the progress of the  
crusade against the inalienable and natural  
rights of man in the neighbouring provinces.

While we feel very thankful to those  
editors who have espoused the Cause of  
the Canadians, we think that they have not

entered into the spirit of the Contest of  
Liberty against despotism, with the zeal  
that the importance of the cause requires.  
In common with others, we think that the  
rights of the people of both this country  
and Canada have been encroached upon  
by the government officers both civil and  
military, and by the Representatives of the  
people in Congress assembled. The voice  
of Liberty has been stifled and the freedom  
of the press has been checked from official,  
aristocratic and anti-republican sources.  
We believe that the people of this State  
have desired a correct history of the facts  
that have transpired and that continue  
daily to transpire in the struggle of the op-  
pressed against the oppressors upon our  
borders to be published in the journals they  
patronise; and that in this, their wishes  
have been disregarded either through party  
trammels or other influence; and that they  
have been denied the publication of their  
sentiments concerning the wrongs visited  
upon the Canadian people. To remedy  
some of these evils that gnaw upon the  
public mind, that threaten the vitals of our  
institutions and make every true Patriot  
mourn—we have started this paper and  
have dedicated it to LIBERTY, TRUTH  
and JUSTICE.

We are for Canada through good report  
and through evil report, through success  
and defeat we go for the Liberty-loving  
Patriot. We believe the Cause of Canada  
is and should be made the Cause of all  
America. So long as Canada is in the  
possession of the British, so long the  
Americans will have neither peace nor se-  
curity. Britain has always waged war  
with our Country's prosperity, and will  
continue to menace our safety, so long as  
she has her bayonets south of the North  
Pole. In advocating the Canadian Cause  
and in battling for Canadian freedom, we  
shall not forget that we claim to be an  
American Patriot. With an unflinching  
determination to expose foreign and domes-  
tic tyranny and to denounce the tyrants—  
with a stern devotion to the rights of the  
people, and an unwavering opposition to  
tyranny in every shape, we ask the friends  
of Liberty to extend to us the right hand  
of support.

Our friends in Canada and along the  
frontier are particularly requested to for-  
ward us all facts connected with the cause  
in which we are engaged, which may con-  
tribute to make the NORTH AMERICAN  
interesting and useful. We wish to make  
this paper a faithful record of past and  
passing events, and as these events may  
become matter of history we shall expect  
our correspondents to pay due deference  
to that truth which cannot be controverted,  
and which will render our journal worthy  
the patronage of the American public.

## DESPOTIISM IN CANADA.

The British have laid waste the Country  
with fire and sword, plundered the unarm-  
ed and defenceless inhabitants of furniture,  
cattle, provisions, and even of the clothes  
that covered them from the pitiless storms.  
The men are shot down in the streets,  
dragged to prison, or driven into the  
woods to perish from starvation and frost.  
Women and children are obliged to suffer  
treatment worse than death from the bru-  
tal volunteers, and wander from place to  
place begging for food and clothing. How  
long shall these scenes continue without  
the voice of New England being raised in  
their behalf? Where are those men of  
God, who cry aloud against the oppressor  
of the black man? Where are the descend-  
ants of the Patriots of '76? Cannot  
something be done to put an end to these  
things?

## CANADA MUST BE FREE.

It will take time; it will cost treasure;  
it may cost blood; the Canadian soil may  
be made rich with the blood of brave men,  
and the bones of thousands may whiten  
the shores of the St. Lawrence, to satisfy  
the thirst for blood in the hearts of the en-  
emies of freedom; but the "STANDARD OF  
LIBERTY" will be planted on the walls of

Quebec, and there it shall wave in triumph!  
proclaiming to the old world that Ameri-  
ca will not suffer her soil to be polluted by  
the continuance of a tyrant's rule or a des-  
pot's sway. Canada must be free! Heaven  
has decreed it. The war that  
now seems at an end, is only suspended, to  
be renewed with fearful vigor. The fire  
of Liberty that runs along our borders  
cannot be quenched. It may be checked  
for a time; crush it you cannot. You  
might as well attempt to chain the bolts of  
Jehovah. It will soon burst out, with all  
the fury that inspires revenge. The best  
blood of America has been shed. The  
avenger of wrongs has unsheathed his  
sword, and time shall chronicle its use.

People of Canada, and citizens of the  
United States,—remember that North  
America is destined to be one great and  
powerful Republic, where LIBERTY, re-  
strained by just and equal laws, shall reign  
triumphant. But the friends of American  
institutions and American Liberty must be  
vigilant; the spirit of despotism is abroad  
in the land. The gold of tyranny has cor-  
rupted too large a portion of the American  
press with the view to create an unnatural  
tone of speech, and an unnatural feeling in  
the bosoms of Republican freemen.

"VIVE LA LIBERTE!" Canadians, hear  
you not the cry of your countrymen whose  
blood has crimsoned the scaffold? Arm!  
arm! and be prepared for the onset; for  
your bleeding country will yet need your  
services. Act in concert; be firm; be  
united. "The better time will come."

"The Canadians dont desire to be free,"  
is the cry of the tories. They do not wish  
a change of government. If that be the  
fact, why does it require 10,000 foreign  
troops to execute the edicts of Sir A. N.  
Colborne? Why is the Constitution of  
Lower Canada suspended? Why is mar-  
tial law declared and enforced with such  
rigid barbarity as to make even the people  
of England shudder? If the people of  
Canada are satisfied with their govern-  
ment, why are they not permitted peaceably  
to assemble and express their sentiments?  
Why is every public journal suppressed  
that dared to assert Canadian rights and  
complain of Canadian wrongs? Why is  
a free system of laws abolished, and a cruel  
and vindictive military despotism estab-  
lished by a foreign power, 3,000 miles over  
the sea?

## FOREIGN.

### LORD DURHAM & CANADA.

That political quack, Lord Durham,  
who banished the Canadians without trial,  
is now figuring in England as a Radical, [?]  
and has recently produced a Report on  
Colonial affairs, wherein he recommends  
a new method of robbing the Canadians  
perpetually, of all political rights.

This paper fills fifty columns of the Lon-  
don Daily papers. We can give merely  
an outline of its contents. His Lordship  
sets out with the [false] position that the  
differences in Lower Canada are not differ-  
ences of political principles, but of national  
races. British against French, and French  
against British. Nearly one half the Re-  
port is taken up in establishing this posi-  
tion. "I expected," he says, "to find a  
contest between a government & a people.  
I found two nations warring in the bosom  
of a single State. The two parties com-  
bine for no public object; they cannot  
harmonize even in associations of charity.  
The only public occasions on which they  
ever meet, is in the Jury box; and there  
they meet to the utter obstruction of justice."  
The loyalty of the French Canadians is  
next denied. Never again will the pre-  
sent generation yield a loyal submission to  
a British government—never again will  
the English population tolerate the author-  
ity of a house of Assembly, in which the  
French shall possess, or even approximate  
to a majority.

In Upper Canada, things, he thinks, are  
not irreclaimable, although he admits the  
continuance of many practical grievances,  
the determined resistance on the part of  
the authorities, to such a system of respon-  
sible government as would give the people