

# NORTH AMERICAN.

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Canadian Rights and Canadian Independence.

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## PUT DOWN THE TYRANTS!

They never fail who die in a great cause;  
The blood may wash their gore,  
Their heads may sicken in the sun—their limbs  
be strong to city gates  
And eagle walls, but still their spirit walks abroad;  
Though years elapse, and others share as dark a  
doom,  
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.

## ORIGINAL BIOGRAPHY.

PIERRE AMIOT was born in 1730 in the  
Parish of Vercheres in the County of Ver-  
cheres. He was brought up to agricul-  
tural pursuits and was one of the most wealthy  
farmers of Lower Canada. His educa-  
tion was excellent and his honesty and in-  
tegrity were proverbial. In 1816 he was  
elected a member of Parliament for the  
county of Surrey, which, according to the  
old division of Counties, comprised the  
whole County of Vercheres & a great part  
of the County of Chambly. He continued  
a member for the County of Surrey till  
1830, when the new division of Counties  
took place, he was then elected by the  
County of Vercheres. He was always  
found a constant and unwavering friend to  
Democratic principles. When in 1827 the  
whole Province of Lower Canada petitioned  
the Imperial Parliament for the recall of  
Lord Dalhousie, who had rendered himself  
obnoxious to the Canadian people by his  
tyrannical conduct, Mr. Amiot as the Re-  
presentative of his County, took the lead  
and was present at the great meeting of  
the freeholders of the County of Surrey,  
which took place at Vercheres on the 27th  
December, 1827. Mr. Amiot was the  
Vice-President of this meeting and in con-  
sequence of the active part he took in its  
proceedings he was ordered by Lord Dal-  
housie to give an account of his conduct.  
The condition of the Governor's demand  
he nobly refused to comply with; the re-  
sult was that Lord Dalhousie annulled his  
commission as Captain in the Provincial  
Militia on the 25th June following. At  
the meeting above mentioned he was  
named a member of the General Committee  
of the County of Surrey. His parliamen-  
tary vote upon the nomination of the  
Speaker of the House of Assembly, which  
Lord Dalhousie had unconstitutionally  
refused to recognize, was highly approved  
by this meeting.

On the 21st August, 1830, Lord Aylmer  
re-instated Mr. Amiot as a Militia officer  
and promoted him to the rank of a Major.  
In February 1834, he voted in favor of the  
22 Resolutions and had the satisfaction to  
see his vote on this all important and vital  
question, approved by his constituency  
who in the month of November following  
re-elected him again.

In the session of 1836, when it was found  
that Lord Gosford had acted hypocritically  
and with the design of deceiving and im-  
posing upon the Representatives of the  
people, it was resolved to vote but six  
months supplies, Mr. Amiot voted in favor  
of that measure.

When the resolutions of Lord John  
Russel were known in Canada, meetings  
were held all over the country to protest  
against such a flagrant violation of their  
constitutional rights. Such a meeting  
was held on the 15th May 1837, at St.  
Marc by the constituency of the County  
of Vercheres. Our lamented friend was  
present at this meeting and earnestly sup-  
ported those manly and dignified resolu-  
tions which were there adopted. In con-  
sequence of the strenuous part he took at  
the proceedings of this meeting, he was called  
to give an account of his conduct by Lord  
Gosford, when the high-spirited answer he  
made to His Lordship's impertinent and  
tyrannical questions, brought upon him the  
honorable punishment of being deprived of  
his commission of Major in the Provincial

Militia which was cancelled on the 24th  
August following.

Far from abating his zeal for the cause  
of freedom, such persecutions acted but as  
a stimulus (if he ever needed any) to ex-  
cite his courage in the great work of re-  
form. He was one of the signers of the  
notice for the convention of the great meet-  
ing of St. Charles in October following,  
but was prevented from attending thereat  
by sickness. When the time came to strike  
for freedom or to submit cowardly to a  
slavish life, he left his home and joined the  
brave patriots at St. Charles' camp, where  
during the battle he evinced the courage  
of a lion. After the British were masters  
of the ground, Mr. Amiot made his es-  
cape through the red-coats and succeeded  
in hiding himself for a long space of time.  
On the 6th December Lord Gosford set a  
price on Mr. Amiot's head and about the  
latter end of the same month he was made  
a prisoner and thrown into a cold, damp  
dungeon in the old jail of Montreal with  
his colleague, companion and intimate  
friend Mr. Drolet whose biography we  
gave in the 7th No., of this paper. His  
slender constitution, the innumerable hard-  
ships he had lately endured and his advanced  
age aided by the insalubrity of the cold  
dungeon in which he was confined together  
with the scantiness of the food he  
was daily allowed, all these causes  
united very soon reduced him to extreme  
illness. In vain did his friends intercede  
for his release from the authorities. His  
death was the *sine qua non* of his libera-  
tion from jail. It was not until the amnes-  
ty of Lord Durham in July 1838 that  
Mr. Amiot was released with heavy bonds  
amounting to several thousand dollars.  
He returned to his once happy home more  
like a skeleton than like a living man and  
he lingered till the 31st January following  
when he ended his sufferings brought upon  
him by the oppressive, and murderous  
hands of the odious British government.  
Such was the end of one of the most  
respectable citizens of Lower Canada and  
one of the most faithful and honest mem-  
ber of Parliament and a devoted friend to  
civil and religious liberty. And such is  
the barbarous cruelty of the British gov-  
ernment in this enlightened age of the  
world.

## HISTORY OF CANADA.

(CONTINUED.)

On the 10th February, 1763, a treaty of  
peace was signed at Paris, between the  
Kings of France and Great Britain. We  
shall here quote some part of the treaty:—  
"It is stipulated that His Most Christian  
Majesty renounces all pretensions he  
may have formed till now, or may form on  
Nova Scotia or Acadia in all its parts, and  
guarantees the whole and all its dependen-  
cies to the King of Great Britain."

"Moreover His Most Christian Majesty  
cedes and guarantees to His said Britannic  
Majesty, in full right, Canada with all its  
dependencies, as also the Island of Cape  
Breton and all the other Islands & Coasts  
in the Gulph and River St. Lawrence and  
in general all that depends on the said  
countries, lands, islands and coasts with  
the Sovereignty, property, possession and  
all rights acquired by treaties or otherwise  
that the Most Christian King and the  
Crown of France may have had till now on  
the said countries, islands, lands, places,  
coasts and the inhabitants, so that the  
Most Christian King cedes and transfers the  
whole to the said King and Crown of Great  
Britain and this in the most ample manner  
and form, without restriction and without  
being able to avoid the said guarantee un-  
der any pretence whatever, or to trouble  
Great Britain in the above mentioned pos-  
sessions."

"On his part, His Britannic Majesty con-  
sents to grant to the inhabitants of Canada  
the free exercise of the Catholic religion.  
He shall consequently give the most exten-  
ded orders that his new subjects, Roman  
Catholics, profess their religion according  
to the forms of the Church of Rome so far  
as the laws of England shall allow it."  
"His Britannic Majesty consents more-

over that the French inhabitants or others  
who have been the subjects of the Most  
Christian King in Canada, may withdraw  
in all security and liberty where they may  
deem proper, that they may sell their prop-  
erty provided it be to the subjects of His  
Britannic Majesty; and that they take with  
them their moveable property, without be-  
ing restrained in their emigration, under any  
pretence whatever, except on debts or  
criminal suits; the term limited for the emi-  
gration shall be fixed at eighteen months  
from the date of the exchange of the ratifi-  
cation of this present treaty."

In the month of October following, a  
proclamation was issued by the Court of  
St. James in the following terms:

"Whereas we have taken into our royal  
consideration the extensive and important  
acquisitions insured to our Crown in Amer-  
ica by the definitive treaty of Paris, con-  
cluded at Paris, the 10th day of February  
last; and desiring that all the beloved sub-  
jects of our Kingdom as well as of our Col-  
onies in America, may as soon as possible  
reap the benefits of the great advantages  
that must result therefrom, for their com-  
merce, their manufactures, and navigation,  
we have thought proper, with the advice of  
our Privy Council, to emanate our present  
royal proclamation in which we publish  
and declare to our beloved subjects, that  
with the advice of our said Privy Council  
we have granted our letters patent under  
the great seal of Great Britain, to erect in  
the countries and islands to us ceded and  
confirmed by the said treaty, four Govern-  
ments distinct and separate, known and  
called by the names of Quebec, East Flori-  
da, West Florida, and Grenada—and limited  
and bounded as follows—that is to say;

"First—the Government of Quebec  
bounded on the coast of Labrador by St.  
John's river, and from thence by a line  
drawn from the source of that river thro'  
St. John's lake to the southern extremity  
of lake Nipissing, from there the said line  
crossing the river St. Lawrence and lake  
Champlain by the 45th degree of latitude  
North, runs along the heights of land which  
divide the rivers which fall into the St. Law-  
rence river, from those which are dis-  
charged into the sea, and also along the north-  
ern coast of the bay des Chaleurs; and the  
coast of the gulph St. Lawrence to Cape  
Rosiers and from thence crossing the outlet  
of the river St. Lawrence by the Western  
extremity of the island of Anticosti, is ter-  
minated at the above mentioned St. John's  
river."

"And so as to extend the free fisheries  
of our subjects to the coasts of Labrador  
and to the adjacent islands, we deemed it  
proper, with the advice of our said Privy  
Council, to put all this coast from the St.  
John's river to Hudson's straits, together  
with the islands of Anticosti and De la  
Magdeleine and all the small islands situ-  
ated on said coast, under our Government  
of New Foundland."

"We have deemed it proper with the  
advice of our Privy Council to join the is-  
lands of St. John and of Cape Breton or  
*Isle Royale* with all the small islands there-  
to adjoining, to our Government of Nova  
Scotia."

"And whereas it will greatly contribute  
to the prompt settlement of our said new  
Governments, to inform our beloved sub-  
jects of our parental care for the security  
of the liberty and properties of those who  
are or shall be inhabitants thereof; we  
have deemed it proper to publish and de-  
clare by our present proclamation that in  
the letters patent under the great seal of  
Great Britain by which the said Govern-  
ments are constituted, We have expressly  
given power and direction to the Govern-  
ors of our said colonies respectively, that  
as soon as the state and the circumstances  
of our said colonies shall allow it, with the  
advice and consent of the members of our  
Council, they shall call and convocate  
*General Assemblies* in the said Govern-

\* The second, third and fourth have no reference  
to Canada, so we omit it.

† We suppress here an article relating to the  
annexation of the river Alabama, to the then  
Province of Georgia.

ments respectively in such manner and  
form used and directed in the colonies and  
Provinces in America, which are under  
our immediate Government; we have also  
given power to our said Governors, with  
the consent of our Council that the rep-  
resentatives of the people, so convo-  
cated as aforesaid, do constitute and ordain  
laws, statutes, ordinances for the public  
peace, their welfare and the good gov-  
ernment of our said colonies, as  
also of the people and inhabitants there-  
of, as similar as possible, to the laws of  
England and under the same regulations  
and restrictions as in the other colonies;  
and in the meantime and till the said *As-  
semblies* may be convocated as aforesaid,  
all those who inhabit or shall retire to our  
colonies, may expect our royal protection  
for the enjoyment of the benefit of the laws  
of the Realm of England; and to this ef-  
fect we have given power under our great  
seal, to the Governors of our said colonies  
respectively, to erect and constitute, with  
the advice of our said Councils respectively,  
Courts of Judicature and of Public Justice  
in our said colonies, to hear and judge all  
cases, civil as well as criminal, according  
to the law and equity and as much as pos-  
sible in conformity to the laws of England,  
with liberty to all persons who may think  
themselves wronged by the decision of such  
courts, in all civil matters, to appeal to us  
in our Privy Council, under the usual con-  
ditions and restrictions."

"We have deemed it proper, with the  
advice of our Privy Council as aforesaid,  
to give to the Governors and Coun-  
cils of our said New Colonies on the Con-  
tinent, full power and authority to enter into  
agreement and bargain with the inhabitants  
of our said new Colonies or with any other  
persons who may settle therein, for the  
lands, possessions and inheritances of which  
it may now or hereafter be in our power  
to dispose, and to grant them to such per-  
sons under such conditions and for such  
small annual sums, servitudes and *recon-  
noissances* as have succeeded in establish-  
ing and settling the other colonies and un-  
der such other conditions as may appear to  
us necessary and convenient for the advan-  
tage of the grantees and for the amelioration  
and settlement of our said colonies."††

"Given at our Court, the 17th day of  
October 1763, in the third year of our  
Reign.

"God Save the King."

Before we proceed any farther in the his-  
tory of Canada, let us examine how far the  
Canadians had a right to be satisfied with  
their new Government. 1st—Could they  
willingly forgive the horrible and atrocious  
murder of their innocent countryman Mr.  
Nadeau, and further, the cruel and in-  
fernal manner by which he had come to  
his death? 2nd—Could they be satisfied  
with their new masters after the ungener-  
ous, illiberal and inhuman treatment they  
had received from them when their own  
generosity had actuated them to volunteer  
their services to go and punish the Indians  
of Michilimackinac who had scalped their  
unjust and tyrannical oppressors? What  
gratitude and attachment could the Cana-  
dians feel for a race of men for whom they  
(the Canadians) had generously incurred  
the greatest peril & privations, and who in  
return had cruelly abandoned them without  
any succour whatever, and at the mercy  
of those very barbarians against whom the  
Canadians had taken up arms in defence  
of the unkind British?

3d—Could the Canadians who had been  
always accustomed to be governed by  
French laws and the *Coutume de Paris*,  
be content to see a new code of laws intro-  
duced suddenly and that too in a language  
foreign to their country, whilst those  
laws and usages by which their properties  
were held and their trade was regulated,  
were totally annihilated?

4th—With what satisfaction could the  
Canadian people see their country di-  
vided and subdivided among the neigh-  
boring English colonies? True enough by

†† The rest of this proclamation relates to the  
rewards of old soldiers and the lands belonging to  
the Indians. We thought it better to suppress it,  
as it is very long and has no relation to the history  
of Canada.

this narrow policy England has been sadly  
paid for its wanton premeditated injustice  
to the Canadian people. Ticonderoga  
which was adjointed to the State of New  
York gave to Gen. Montgomery a free  
entry to Canada, and by the treaty of peace  
of 1763, the Americans have kept a great  
portion of the former French possessions;  
which this day enjoy the blessings of poli-  
tical freedom, whilst poor unfortunate  
Canada is yet under the unrelenting rod  
of proud and tyrannical England.

Thus we see that in the short space of  
three years after the British had full pos-  
session of Canada, they had already com-  
mitted four great acts of injustice towards  
their new subjects.

Let us continue. The treaty of peace  
concluded at Paris on the 10th February  
1763 and the proclamation of King George  
the Third on the 7th October following  
were not known in Canada till in 1764.—  
The Canadians were sadly disappointed to  
be forced to live with their new masters,  
but they had to make "a virtue of neces-  
sity" and so they quietly submitted.

A Mr. Brown, a Scotchman by birth,  
imported into Canada a Press and Types  
from Boston and established a news-paper,  
which he called the "Quebec Gazette."—  
It is the same paper which still exists in  
the city of Quebec and is the property of  
Mr. John Neilson.

Gen. Murray who was named Governor  
of Canada this year, according to the  
instructions he had received from the Co-  
lonial Minister, formed a Legislative Coun-  
cil to enact laws and regulations for the  
peace and maintenance of the colony. In  
the nomination of the members of the Leg-  
islative Council, the new subjects were en-  
tirely excluded; strangers totally unac-  
quainted with the habits and wants of the  
Canadian people were those selected to  
draft laws for them. The same narrow  
and limited policy which then actuated the  
first Governor of Canada, has always been  
observed in all provincial appointments,  
not however so conspicuously. The first  
Legislative Council of Canada under Brit-  
ish Government was composed of the fol-  
lowing persons: "William Gregory, Chief  
Justice; Paulus Emilius Irving, Hector  
Theophilus Cramahé, Samuel Holland,  
Adam Mabane, Thomas Dunn, Walter  
Murray and Francois Mounier."

The first act of this body on the 17th  
Sept. 1764, was to confirm all the judg-  
ments and decisions of the military tribunal  
which had been established since the con-  
quest in the cities of Quebec, Montreal  
and Three Rivers. They also established  
Courts of Justice civil and criminal in the  
three different cities above named. They  
declared the English laws to be the laws  
of the country and ordered the Canadian  
people to conform themselves to those  
laws. The abrupt introduction of the  
English laws into Canada created discon-  
tent and confusion among the Canadians  
who understood nothing about this new  
code. The consequence was that a great  
number of the former respectable lawyers  
of the Colony were forced to quit  
and passed to France, whilst the Province  
was at once inundated by English lawyers  
of the lowest class, who seemed to have  
come to Canada only to amass large for-  
tunes and to devour the substance of the  
inhabitants.

These lawyers had nothing of an ele-  
vated character about them but on the con-  
trary sold justice to the highest bidder and  
even those who paid the most, were not  
always certain to gain. The Chief Jus-  
tice of the Province whom the government  
of England had taken from one of the jails  
of London, was also connected with those  
lawyers in their illegal traffic of the law,  
and his injustice and want of moral  
honesty were so glaring and palpable that  
general Murray was at last forced to can-  
cel his commission and to interdict him  
the right of pleading any case whatever in  
the Province.

Another subject of discontent for the  
new subjects was that they were declared  
incompetent to act as lawyers in the differ-  
ent Courts of His Majesty, and also as  
jurors. These insults added to their inad-  
missibility in the Legislative Council, ren-  
dered the Canadians quite unhappy and  
very anxious about their future fate.

(To be Continued.)