

Section 4: War, Rebellion & Reform

Introduction

The 18th Century was important for so many reasons: it was during this time that the Scientific and Industrial Revolutions took place. Also, it was at this time that a democratic revolution took the western world by storm. In particular, two revolutions—one in America and the other in France—shifted the balance of power out of the hands of the nobility and into the hands of the common person.

In 1791 the British passed the *Constitution Act*; it established the rich aristocracy as the supreme authority in the British North American colonies. This went against the democratic spirit of the age and many people called for political reform in Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, etc.

When war broke out with the United States in 1812, the calls for political reform were replaced with a rallying cry to defend the homeland against the American invader. The War of 1812 was basically an attempt by the United States to conquer Canada while Great Britain was pre-occupied with fighting the French in Europe. After several battles the war ended in a draw.

Following the end of the War of 1812, people renewed their demand for political reform. Eventually two rebellions broke out—one in Upper Canada and the other in Lower Canada—because Britain refused to grant Canada responsible government. The British put down the rebellions quickly. Then they sent Lord Durham to Canada to find out the causes of unrest in British North America. During his brief stay Durham determined that the problem with Canada was its political institutions which were dominated by the rich. He recommended Canada be given responsible government. And that is eventually what happened with the passing of the *Act of Union* in 1840.

Story Outline for War of 1812 (Web Page 4.0)

THE STORY	THE DETAILS	TERMS & PEOPLE
<p><i>Great Britain and France are at war in Europe. The War spills over to North America.</i></p>	<p>4.0). Introduction: Causes of the War of 1812 1). A British blockade of Europe hurts American merchants because it prevents them from selling products to France, etc. America, consequently, goes into an economic recession. 2). England was “impressing” American sailors on the high seas. 3). England never did recognize American independence. 4). America believed England was encouraging Native Americans on the frontier to attack American settlements on the frontier. 5). France (under Napoleon) was allied to America against Britain.</p>	<p>Napoleon: emperor of France and major enemy of Britain.</p> <p>Napoleonic Wars: a series of conflicts fought between France and the monarchies of Europe. The conflict is very much a battle of ideas—republicanism versus monarchy.</p> <p>Impressing: the practice of forcing people from another country to serve in your own navy.</p>
<p><i>America invades British North America in retaliation for England’s interference with American commercial interests.</i></p>	<p>America Declares War 1). American President Madison declared war on Britain during the War of 1812.</p>	<p>Thomas Jefferson: former American president.</p> <p>James Madison: president of the United States at the time of the declaration of war against Britain.</p>
<p><i>British North American military forces are hopelessly outnumbered by the American invasionary armies.</i></p> <p><i>An Indian Confederacy helps Britain defend Canada.</i></p>	<p>British North America Prepares for War 1). English troops defending Canada were considered to be hopelessly outnumbered by the Americans invaders. 2). England made an alliance with Tecumseh’s Indian Confederation.</p>	<p>Isaac Brock: senior-most military English officer in Canada.</p> <p>Tecumseh: Shawnee war-captain who tried to create a pan-Indian Confederation to prevent American westward expansion.</p> <p>Indian Confederacy: an organization of Indian nations working together to prevent any further westward expansion of the Americans.</p>
	<p>Tecumseh & the Indian Confederacy 1). America expanded westward at the expense of nations like the Shawnee. Tecumseh tried to warn western Native Americans of the threat posed by the USA. 2). He tried to establish a confederacy of all remaining Indians to prevent any further expansion</p>	

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<p><i>The Indian Confederacy dealt a serious blow by the Americans. The Confederacy is weakened but still exists; it allies itself with the British.</i></p> <p><i>The Americans believed that it was destiny that all of North America would be controlled by them. This belief was called "Manifest Destiny."</i></p>	<p>Battle of Tippecanoe (1811 AD)</p> <p>1). Tecumseh left his brother in charge of the confederacy while he was out trying to expand his alliance system. He instructs the "Prophet" not to fight the Americans under any circumstances.</p> <p>2). Americans learn of Tecumseh's absence and use the opportunity to attack Prophets-town. America was very interested in settling the territory known as Indiana where Prophetstown was located.</p> <p>3). The Battle of Tippecanoe did not take place during the War of 1812; it took place in 1811.</p> <p>4). Battle of Tippecanoe resulted in an American victory and the virtual destruction of the Indian Confederacy.</p>	<p>Manifest Destiny: a belief of American statesmen that the entire continent of North America was "destined" to be controlled by a single people—the Americans.</p> <p>The Prophet (Tenskwatawa): Tecumseh's brother and spiritual leader of the Indian Confederacy.</p> <p>Prophetstown: the capital and administrative center of the Indian Confederacy.</p> <p>William H. Harrison: officer who led an American army against the Indians at the Battle of Tippecanoe. He is a future American president.</p>
<p><i>The Americans are the first to strike by invading Upper Canada. They are driven out by a combined Anglo-Native force.</i></p>	<p>Introduction: War in Upper Canada (1812)</p> <p>1). The American army was poorly prepared for war. The majority of Americans did not support it.</p> <p>2). Americans made the mistake of dividing their forces to attack Canada at multiple places. They should have massed their forces so as to overwhelm the British-Canadians.</p>	
	<p>The War of 1812 Begins</p> <p>1). The initial invasion by the Americans invades the Upper Canadian wilderness north of Great Lakes. His army is pushed back by a combined Anglo-Native force (led by Brock and Tecumseh).</p>	
<p><i>The Americans prove not to be such a difficult opponent despite having more men than the British and Indian Confederacy.</i></p>	<p>Psychological Warfare at Detroit</p> <p>1). Brock leads Anglo-Native army in an invasion of American territory. He follows the retreating Hull to Fort Detroit.</p> <p>2). Americans are afraid of an "Indian massacre" and therefore surrender to the Anglo-Native force without firing a shot.</p>	<p>William Hull: officer who led the failed American invasion of Upper Canada.</p>
	<p>Massacre at Fort Dearborn</p> <p>1). British invaders also attacked Fort Dearborn (Chicago). Unlike Detroit this attack ends in an Indian massacre of American prisoners of war.</p> <p>2). Brock's success encourages the previously neutral Iroquois to join the war on the side of Britain.</p>	<p>John Brant: son of Joseph Brant and leader of the Mohawk supporters of Canada.</p>

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<p><i>A combined Anglo-Native force repels a major American invasion of Upper Canada. This prevents what many historians to believe to be the conquest of Upper Canada by America.</i></p>	<p>Battle of Queenston Heights (1812) 1). Americans attempted to invade Upper Canada again at a place called Queenston Heights. Brock is killed during the battle. 2). American victory is prevented by John Brant and his Mohawk force. They help Canada win this battle and prevent a full-out American invasion of Upper Canada. 3). Americans retaliate by burning York (Toronto).</p>	
	<p>Battle of the Thames (1813) 1). British chose to retreat instead of fight the Americans at Fort Malden. Tecumseh publicly criticizes General Proctor calling him a coward. 2). British retreat from fort and Americans pursue them into wilderness. A battle takes place at the Thames River. 3). British retreat leaving their native allies to fight alone. Tecumseh is killed in the battle and any hope of an Indian Confederacy dies with him.</p>	<p>Henry Proctor: commanding general of British forces at the Battle of the Thames.</p>
	<p>Laura Secord 1). Laura Secord overhears American officers plan an invasion of Canada through Beaver Dams. She warns the British of the impending attack. A British-Mohawk force ambushes the invading Americans. 2). The Battle of Beaver Dams (1813) results in a decisive British victory.</p>	<p>Laura Secord: wife of a Loyalist wounded at the Battle of Queenston Heights. She is famous for her epic journey through the wilderness to warn British forces of an imminent American attack at a place called Beaver Dams in Upper Canada.</p>
<p><i>Americans invade Lower Canada but are repelled by Anglo-French-Native armies.</i></p>	<p>The War in Lower Canada 1). The Battle of Chateauguay (1813) results in a Canadian victory. 2). The battle is fought and won entirely by French Canadian forces on the Chateauguay River.</p>	<p>Wade Hampton: American officer in charge of an invasion of Lower Canada. Charles de Salaberry: a French Canadian officer who fought in the service of Britain. Les Voltigeurs Canadiens (Canada's Acrobats): a military unit formed by French Canadians and led by Salaberry.</p>
<p><i>The War of 1812 is brought to a close with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent. Britain recognizes America's independence at last and the Americans recognize Canada's right to exist.</i></p>	<p>The Battle of Crysler's Farm (1813) 1). Both Britain and America claim victory at this battle. 3). British burn Washington, D. C. in retaliation for the burning of York earlier that year. 4). Treaty of Ghent signed ending war in 1814: Britain recognizes America's independence, Canada maintains its independence, both Canada and America claimed overall victory, Britain agreed to no longer interfere with America's westward expansion.</p>	<p>James Wilkinson: American officer in charge of the intended attack on Montreal. Treaty of Ghent: document ending the War of 1812. Signed in Ghent, Belgium.</p>

Story Outline for Rebellion & Reform (Web Pages 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3)

THE STORY	THE DETAILS	TERMS & PEOPLE
<p><i>In the early 19th Century (1820s), people in British North America started asking for the colonial government system to be reformed or changed (and made more democratic). The wealthy elite and Governor General opposed such reform.</i></p>	<p>4.1). Democracy vs. Aristocracy 1). The American and French Revolutions were a result of a basic desire by most people to have a new form of government called democracy. 2). Canada had an obsolete colonial system of government, e.g. The rich controlled every aspect of government with the help of the British Governor General. The emerging middle-class had absolutely no say in their own government. 3). Three men (Howe, Mackenzie, and Papineau) were reform-minded politicians who emerged to fight for Canada to be given "responsible government."</p>	<p>Democracy: literally means "people power"; it's contemporary meaning is "rule by the people." Responsible Government: politicians and government officials are accountable to the people for their performance and policies. Joseph Howe: a moderate reformer from Nova Scotia; son of a Loyalist. William Lyon Mackenzie: a radical reformer, politician and journalist based in York. Louis-Joseph Papineau: a radical French reformer, politician and seigneur.</p>
<p><i>The Governor General had virtually absolute control of the colonial government.</i></p>	<p>The Colonial Government: Governor 1). The Governor General was accountable only to Westminster.</p>	<p>Governor General: title of the most powerful representative of the English Crown in Canada (based out of Upper Canada).</p>
<p><i>Members of the two councils—Legislative and Executive—used their position for self-gain and ignored the needs of the majority.</i></p>	<p>The Executive & Legislative Councils 1). Members of these two councils were appointed from the wealthy elite by the Governor General. 2). Political reformers like Mackenzie, Papineau, and Howe, wanted members of these two councils to be directly accountable to the people.</p>	<p>Legislative Council: proposed and enacted new laws. Executive Council: carried out and enforced laws.</p>
<p><i>The elected representatives were useful to the Governor General only insofar as they could help raise money from the people through taxes.</i></p>	<p>The Assembly 1). British North American colonies all had elected assemblies; however, these assemblies had no decision-making power.</p>	
<p><i>This was designed to promote stability as opposed to support the growth of democracy in British North America.</i></p>	<p>Constitution Act (1791) 1). Established the colonial government system in British North America. 2). The Constitution Act placed an <i>elected</i> assembly under the control of an <i>appointed</i> council.</p>	

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<p><i>By 1820 the colonies had outgrown the colonial system. And by the 1830s people were actively calling for democratic reforms.</i></p>	<p>Six Colonies One Problem 1). Ideas like equality, justice and liberty, encouraged people to take a closer look at their political institutions. 2). The aristocracy used their considerable power to prevent the expansion of democratic rights in all of the British colonies.</p>	
<p><i>In Quebec, life was divided along linguistic and economic lines. The majority of rich people in this French province were English. The French felt like second-class citizens.</i></p>	<p>Discontent in Lower Canada 1). English merchants dominated Quebec's economy and colonial government.</p>	
<p>Parti Patriotes & the Cholera Epidemic 1). The English Party dominated politics in Quebec. Members of the French aristocracy were called the Chateau Clique. 2). The Parti Patriote worked for democratic rights to be given to French Canadiens. 3). A cholera epidemic broke out in 1832 that claimed 9,000 lives in Quebec. The French believed that Britain knowingly allowed sick Irish immigrants to sail to Montreal.</p>		<p>Chateau Clique: a nickname used to describe the English and French aristocrats who hung out at the "governors chateau" (house). Parti Patriote: a French political party; it was led by Papineau.</p>
<p><i>The Parti Patriotes believed in democracy and wanted to give diplomacy a chance. They approached Britain with their grievances.</i></p> <p><i>Rebellion in Lower Canada became inevitable once because Britain refused to listen to French demands for reform. Making the situation worse there were crop failures in the 1830s, an economic recession, and a cholera epidemic.</i></p>	<p>The Ninety-Two Resolutions 1). The <i>Patriotes</i> wanted members of the Legislative Council to be taken directly from House of Assembly. 2). They also wanted members of the Executive Council to be "responsible" to the House of Assembly for its performance. 3). They wanted some limits placed upon the Lieutenant-governor. 4). The <i>Patriotes</i> began preparing for an armed uprising once they learned of Britain's rejection of the <i>Resolutions</i>.</p>	<p>Prerogative Power: the power to make decisions unilaterally without actually having to consult with anyone. House of Assembly: a place where elected representatives meet and debate. There are no appointed members; however, the Governor General had the right to speak to and power to dissolve the House. Lieutenant-Governor: only Upper Canada had a Governor General; however, every other colony in British North America (except Newfoundland) had a Lieutenant-Governor (lower in rank).</p>
<p><i>The middle-class pressured the Governor General and aristocracy to share decision-making power.</i></p>	<p>Discontent in Upper Canada 1). The Governor and aristocracy refused to share decision-making power.</p>	<p>Middle-Class: people occupying an economic position of power in between the rich and lower classes. These tended to be people like teachers, lawyers, doctors, etc.</p>

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<p><i>Mackenzie criticized the aristocracy and they tried to silence him. He became very popular among the majority of Canadians. He entered politics and was elected the first Mayor of Toronto in 1834.</i></p>	<p>William Lyon Mackenzie 1). Men from York's "finest families" (Family Compact) refused to tolerate Mackenzie's criticisms. They broke into his newspaper the <i>Colonial Advocate</i> and destroyed his printing press. 2). Mackenzie sued his attackers successfully. He became a hero to many reform-minded Canadians who wanted to end the authority of the privileged class. 3). Governor General John Colborne hated Mackenzie.</p>	<p>Family Compact: a nickname used to describe the wealthy elite of Upper Canada first coined by Mackenzie. John Colborne: a Governor General who was eventually replaced because he was so detested by French and English reformers. He led the British army during the Upper and Lower Canadian rebellions.</p>
<p><i>The Reform Party opposed the Family Compact in Upper Canada. The Reform Party wanted "responsible government." They tried democratic means before opting for rebellion.</i></p>	<p>Crisis in Upper Canada 1). Governor Bond Head tried to appease the reformers by appointing one of them to the Executive Council. He appointed Robert Baldwin. 2). Baldwin found himself without any influence whatsoever and therefore left the council. 3). This led to political deadlock in Upper Canada. People began to prepare themselves for rebellion.</p>	<p>Francis Bond Head: Governor General during the Upper and Lower Canadian rebellions. Robert Baldwin: a moderate reformer who opposed the radical reformers like Mackenzie. Political Deadlock: a state of affairs where the people involved in the decision-making process can no longer effectively make decisions but are "deadlocked."</p>
<p><i>Rebellion did not break out in Nova Scotia because it was more stable. Also, its population was basically English-only. There were no French-English problems like in Canada.</i></p>	<p>Trouble in Nova Scotia 1). Joseph Howe was the editor of the newspaper <i>The Novascotian</i>. He used his newspaper to criticize the privileges of the aristocracy. He wanted responsible government for Nova Scotia. 2). Like Mackenzie he entered politics as a "man of the people."</p>	
<p><i>The first rebellion broke out in Lower Canada in November, 1837.</i></p>	<p>4.2). 1837: The Boiling Point 1). Armed rebellion broke out near Montreal. 2). Bond Head sent John Colborne to Lower Canada in order to put down the rebellion. 3). Papineau and his supporters fled to the Richelieu Valley and the county of <i>Deux-Montagnes</i> (reformer strongholds). 4). Many Irish immigrants made common cause with the French.</p>	
<p>The Battle of St. Denis 1). British forces led by Colonel Charles Gore marched into the Richelieu Valley expecting only token resistance. 2). The <i>Patriotes</i> ambushed the British and defeated them. This victory encouraged other French people to join what they at first believed was a rebellion doomed to fail.</p>		<p>Wolfed Nelson: was an Irish member of the <i>Parti Patriote</i>. Charles Gore: British commander during the Battle of St. Denis.</p>

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<p>The Battle of St. Charles</p> <p>1). On November 15th, 1837, the British engaged the rebels at St. Charles (a small community at the Richelieu River).</p> <p>2). The French were decisively defeated. Both Papineau and Nelson escaped to the United States.</p>		
<p>The Battle of St. Eustache</p> <p>1). On December 14, 1837, General Colborne led a force of 2,000 British regular soldiers against 200 rebels at a church in the community of St. Eustache.</p> <p>2). The French were led by Dr. Jean-Olivier Chenier.</p> <p>3). Following the British victory at the Battle of Eustache Colborne unleashed the English militia on the inhabitants of the Richelieu Valley and <i>Deux-Montagnes</i>.</p>		<p>Jean-Olivier Chenier: commander of the French at the Battle of St. Eustache.</p>
<p><i>A second rebellion broke out in 1838 that was likewise put down with cruelty by the English.</i></p>	<p>The Rebellion & Aftermath</p> <p>1). Eight-hundred Frenchmen were arrested and tried before a colonial court.</p> <p>2). Papineau and 15 other <i>Patriot</i> leaders were banished from Quebec forever.</p> <p>3). Many <i>habitants</i> had their property either confiscated or destroyed during the rebellion.</p>	
<p><i>Mackenzie believed that while the majority of Britain's colonial army was occupied fighting the French, a rebellion in Upper Canada would be more likely to succeed.</i></p>	<p>Rebellion in Upper Canada</p> <p>1). While the rebellion in Lower Canada was going on Mackenzie and a small band of rebels marched on Toronto.</p>	<p>Toronto Declaration: on December 3, 1837, Mackenzie issued this declaration of Upper Canada's independence from Britain.</p>
<p>The "Battle" of Yonge Street</p> <p>1). On December 5, 1837, Mackenzie and his "army" marched down Yonge Street in the direction of York's City Hall.</p> <p>2). The "army" lacked weapons and intended on seizing weapons stored at the city hall.</p> <p>3). Before actually entering York Mackenzie and his "army" stopped at Montgomery's Tavern to have a bite to eat and organize.</p>		
<p>The "Battle" Continues</p> <p>1). After exchanging shots with the militia Mackenzie's men fled York to Montgomery's Tavern.</p> <p>2). Governor General Bond Head followed the rebels to the tavern and defeated them in a brief skirmish.</p> <p>3). Mackenzie fled to New York.</p> <p>4). The Upper Canadian Rebellion was over before it even began.</p>		
<p>The Republic of Navy Island</p> <p>1). With the help of some financial backers Mackenzie "conquered" Navy Island and declared a glorious new republic with himself as president of a provisional government.</p> <p>2). The British fired upon Mackenzie and forced him to withdraw from Navy Island.</p> <p>3). A British-Canadian force followed Mackenzie to the United States and sank his supply ship the <i>Caroline</i>.</p>		<p>Provisional Government: an emergency or temporary government usually put in place when the existing government is either removed by force or collapses.</p>

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<p><i>From a military standpoint the two rebellions were complete failures; however, the rebellions did force Britain to re-evaluate the colonial government system.</i></p>	<p>The Result of One-and-a-Half Rebellions</p> <p>1). Radical reformers like Mackenzie fell out of favour; moderate reformers like Baldwin gained influence.</p> <p>3). The Family Compact and Chateau-clique were left firmly in control of Canada.</p>	
<p><i>Queen Victoria sent Sir John George Lambton to investigate the causes of the rebellions. Lambton was given extraordinary powers over all of British North America.</i></p>	<p>4.3). Lord Durham and His Infamous Report</p> <p>1). The position of Governor General changed dramatically following 1838. The Governor was given power over <i>all</i> of British North America and not just Canada.</p> <p>2). Durham visited both Upper and Lower Canada to investigate the rebellions. He wrote the <i>Report on the Affairs of British North America</i> in 1839.</p> <p>3). Robert Baldwin argued to Lord Durham that the cause of the rebellion in Upper Canada was the lack of a responsible government.</p> <p>4). Durham believed the cause of the rebellion in Lower Canada was fundamentally caused by ethnic or French-English differences.</p> <p>5). In reality, the cause of both rebellions was identical—reformers wanted responsible government.</p>	<p>Lord Durham: Lambton was regarded as a “progressive” and “democratic” thinking man. Reformers in Canada regarded his arrival with great optimism.</p>
<p>Canada Loses its First Governor General</p> <p>1). Durham sent French rebels to British-controlled Bermuda. The governor of Bermuda complained to Westminster. Durham was recalled to England to explain his actions.</p> <p>2). Durham was removed as Governor General; however, he did make important recommendations:</p> <p>a). Upper and Lower Canada should be united under one government (or assembly); b). Members of the legislative and executive councils should be taken from the elected representatives in the House of Assembly; c). The colonies should be given complete control over their own local affairs.</p>		
<p><i>The rebellions in both colonies was fundamentally the same: people wanted responsible government and naturally the elite resisted any attempt at a reduction to their powers and privileges.</i></p>	<p>Some Final Words</p> <p>1). The French rebelled because they believed in English-style democracy and the rule of law.</p>	
<p><i>Durham believed that once an English majority had been clearly established, it would be time to introduce responsible government.</i></p>	<p>Durham’s Solution</p> <p>1). Durham argued for the assimilation of the French.</p> <p>2). He recommended responsible government be given to Canada for the sake of the “English.”</p> <p>3). He argued for the unification of Upper and Lower Canada into a single province.</p>	

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<p><i>Upper and Lower Canada were united into a single province.</i></p>	<p>Act of Union (1840)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). The new United Province of Canada was granted a single House of Assembly. 2). Both Upper and Lower Canada were given the same number of seats in the Assembly. 3). Upper Canada became known as "Canada West" and Lower Canada as "Canada East." 4). The French were clearly the majority in United Canada. However, English and French were given equal representation in the Assembly. 5). This equal representation resulted in "political deadlock." 	<p>Kingston: was the first capital of the United Province of Canada.</p>
<p><i>The French-English House of Assembly was fundamentally flawed because representatives did not make decisions based on informed "opinions" but instead voted based on their "origins."</i></p>	<p>The United Provinces of Canada</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Representatives in the House of Assembly tended to "bloc vote" thereby paralyzing government decision-making. 2). Something unusual needed to happen to break the deadlock: reformers from both Canada West and East formed a political alliance to make common cause for the establishment of responsible government. 	<p>Bloc Vote: English and French representatives voted along "ethnic" lines. This means an Englishman would always vote against a new French law but would always vote for a new law proposed by an Englishman.</p>
<p><i>Once the Rebellion Losses Bill was given royal assent by Lord Elgin responsible government had at last arrived in Canada.</i></p>	<p>Reformers in the New Union</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Robert Baldwin (Canada West) and Louis-Hippolyte la Fontaine (Canada East) formed a political alliance. 2). The goodwill formed by this alliance ended the tendency to "bloc vote" which was a result of the mutual distrust between French and English members of the House of Assembly. 3). In 1849, a French member of the House of Assembly introduced the Rebellion Losses Bill. This bill would compensate French people who had lost property, etc. during the Lower Canadian Rebellion due to Colborne's activities. 4). Wealthy English people opposed compensating the French. 5). Lord Elgin (James Bruce) believed in responsible government; therefore, at the recommendation of the Reform Party he gave royal assent to the <i>Rebellions Losses Bill</i> (1849). English riots broke out in Montreal. 6). Bytown (Ottawa) was chosen as a "neutral" site for the new capital of United Canada (1857). 	<p>James Bruce (Lord Elgin): Governor General of Canada during the <i>Rebellion Losses Bill</i> crisis (1849).</p> <p>Royal Assent: the final step before a bill officially becomes a law; only the Governor General can give royal assent (without which no bill can actually become law).</p>