

- The British appoint a reformer, **Lord Durham** as governor of both Canadas to investigate colonial problems after the rebellions of 1837.
  - English Canada views Durham as a founder of a democratic Canada.
  - French Canada sees Durham as a racist who wants to erase French culture
- His plan for a union of all of the British North American colonies was dropped because of objections in the Maritime Provinces.
- Durham's 2 main recommendations:
  - **Responsible Government**
  - **Union of Upper and Lower Canada**
- In Lower Canada, Durham described the problems as racially, not politically based. He found "*two nations warring in the bosom of a single state.*"
- To ensure harmony and progress, he recommended assimilating the French Canadians, whom he called "people with no literature and no history," through legislative union of the Canada's, in which an English-speaking majority would dominate.

#### **Reactions to the Report:**

- Durham's report was condemned by the Family Compact, but Reformers in Upper Canada and Nova Scotia hailed the idea of a responsible government.
- The Chateau Clique supported the union largely because they saw it as a way to overcome French Canadian opposition to their plans.
- French Canadians were opposed to the union and reaffirmed their determination to defend their nationality.
- Durham would resign and return to Britain to finish his report.

#### **Responsible Government Achieved:**

- Durham was succeeded by **Lord Sydenham**.
- In 1840, the **Act of Union** united Upper and Lower Canada.
- Its main provisions were:
  - The establishment of a single parliament with equal representation from Upper & Lower Canada.
  - Consolidation of debt
  - Banishment of the French language from official government use
  - Suspension of specific French Canadian institutions relating to education and civil law
- The Act was unfair to Lower Canada with its larger population and smaller debt.
- However, both Canadas agreed to work within the Act, especially under the liberal influence of the united Reform Party led by **Louis Lafontaine** and **Robert Baldwin**.