

intended to secure France the monopoly of the North American Fur trade.

In fairness, we feel bound to express our admiration of the military genius which dictated this plan, and of the profound sagacity with which the best positions were chosen along this immensely extended line. We also say with pleasure, that never was there a bolder hunter or a more daring navigator than the Canadian Voyageur. Active, patient, temperate, and enduring, what rapid pours through the wilderness that he has not climbed in his frail canoe? What recess of the forest has he not explored, braving the inclemencies of the stormy north, and the murderous knife of the savage whose solitudes he disturbed? But this was not true colonization. True colonization was proceeding slowly but certainly in the British possessions; and while the French possessions remained mere guarded posts of traders, population and civilization were advancing in the British Colonies. This made the fate of French America certain: and the gallantry of the immortal Wolfe only anticipated by a short time the inevitable fate of French America.

After the conquest, Quebec remained a military post. Montreal was partially inhabited by fur traders, who were its first British inhabitants. Peace and plenty, and the protection of a liberal Government carried the increase of the French people at a ratio far beyond what existed before the Conquest.—The British inhabitants increased and became wealthy through the means of Upper Canada trade. Quebec now sees beneath her battlements 1200 British ships arrive annually to bear away the produce of the interior. Montreal has become a very rich and flourishing city by means of Upper Canada commerce.—Lower Canada is now receiving the whole exportable produce of the Upper Province, and a large portion of that of the western States. She is importing millions of British manufactures for the interior market. They are no peddlers, these Montreal merchants: their gains are not counted by pounds, but by thousands: and yet they are but beginning; indeed we may say the prospect is but opening of the immense mercantile resources to be accumulated in that favoured position.

But while Upper Canada, with for a long time not one half the population of the Lower Province, has been making the most strenuous

exertions to open a trade, of the profits of which the sister Province must of necessity have the largest share; while with one-third of the revenue collected on imports at Quebec, she has been expending upwards of a million of pounds sterling in opening communications with the ocean, of which the sister Province must have the chief benefit, what has Lower Canada been doing? Why squabbling about national distinctions; striving to uphold musty institutions and barbarous laws, obsolete throughout the rest of the civilized world; quarreling about the predominance of races;—standing still in the midst of advance, like a rock in a stream, breaking the billows, and impeding the current. This has continued until Upper Canada, exhausted by efforts beyond her strength, almost bankrupt from expenditure, beyond, but which ought never to have been wholly chargeable on, her resources, is driven to ask the question,—are my people to build up your Cities, to enrich your merchants, to open your communications, to bring fleets into your harbours, while you supinely look on, or only stretch out your hands to receive the heavy toll upon our commerce?

But this is not all the Upper Canadians have to complain of; they have opened their arms to receive the emigrant, who has been taxed for the privilege of a passage through the dominions of his Sovereign. They have invited their fellow-subjects to come and join them in their arduous course; but the country was rendered unsafe by reason of Lower Canada disputes, and the stream of emigration was directed to other lands. They have asked Lower Canada to share in the expenses of a trading co-partnership, but Lower Canada would only share in the profits.

We do not say that the merchant inhabitants of Lower Canada were so blind to their own interests as to desire this state of affairs; but why should we express an opinion as to which of two fierce and irreconcilable parties was in the right? What can it be to Upper Canadians which was in fault when legislation was suspended, and improvement stayed, and their access to the ocean impeded, and when at last they were threatened to be cut off for ever from their father-land by violence and treason? They only say things cannot so continue. If the Canadas were independent countries, things should not so continue. And they seek for remedy, for justice, at the hands of their supreme