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POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

I.—INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE course of events in these Provinces has conducted us to an important period in their history,—a period that will have a decisive influence on their future condition, and prove a kind of starting point, from which they may enter on a more prosperous or adverse career, according as present advantages are improved or neglected.

“There is a tide in the affairs of men,” &c.

The quotation is trite, but not the less applicable. The point of an ancient maxim may arouse a slumbering modern’s attention, and lead him to embrace the benefits within his reach, before the fugitives vanish from his view.

The late insurrectionary attempts in these Provinces greatly disordered our public affairs, and rendered it necessary to suspend the Constitution in Lower Canada, and place that Province under the direction of a Governor and Council. But as this form of Government is liable to weighty objections, it was judged advisable to return again to a Constitutional Government; and as the beneficial working of the Constitution had been greatly hindered, and the bitterness of mere political warfare greatly increased by a difference of national descent, the Canadas have been re-united into one Province, in order that the restored Con-

stitution might be worked by a British majority in the legislature, one main obstruction to public prosperity be removed, and the united Province might enter on its new existence under the impulse of British genius, enterprise, and freedom: we say, of *British freedom*; because, after all that has been said on this point, the spirit of genuine freedom is native to every British heart, and though its generous operations may be often restrained by the barriers of prejudice or self-interest, yet freedom, like truth, is great, and will eventually prevail.

The restored Constitution is, in substance, the same as that which preceded it. All the complaints of mis-government were, with one exception, complaints of a mal-administration of the Constitution. That exception referred to the composition of the Legislative Councils, the Assembly of Lower Canada, and some of those who acted with them in the Upper Province, having required that the Councils should be made elective, or else be abolished altogether. But this exception expired with the insurrection, and the general and more reasonable popular demand was for the British Constitution, as it exists and is practically administered in Great Britain, moving in harmony with the majority of the people’s representatives, and yet supplying an effectual check to popular rashness or