

tion The mercantile interest, as it is called, being entirely thrown into that scale, those English papers that are not directly under the immediate controul of government, are swayed completely to the same side of the question, by the preponderating motive of interest, for it is to the merchants alone they look for their profits both by the circulation of their papers, and the printing their advertisements. It is, however, a preposterous anomaly in civil polity (alluding to Lower Canada) that an insignificant proportion of the population, a transient, migratory, flock of birds of prey, for such may with great propriety, the bulk of our mercantile men be called, who have not, who can not have, any affection for, or concern in, the permanent welfare of the country beyond what their own miserable temporary interest may create, aspire, and assume, to dictate to, and controul, an immense majority of their fellow-subjects, consisting of the ancient nobility, the landed proprietors, the gentlemen, the farmers, and settlers who are permanent, resident natives, and who have no other country, no other interest, upon which to bestow their affection, and their attention, than that which they inhabit, than that which gave them birth. Yet this immense majority, the upper classes of which are by far the most enlightened, by far the most learned, by far the best educated, by far the most experienced, part of the community in Lower Canada, have neither voice nor head, neither a free press, nor leaders of note, for the chief men among them are not ambitious nor turbulent, and their language is not that of the government, not that of the army, not that of the adventurers who resort hither to enrich themselves, and is now endeavoured to be proscribed, as a preliminary measure to the proscription of themselves from all share in the legislature of the land of their nativity. It is obvious, therefore, that as long as the other English papers are shut against them, the FREE PRESS, being almost the only one by which the sentiments and arguments of the Canadian, or, as it has for party-purposes been denominated, the opposition party, can be laid before the public, it will be more occupied by writers on that side of the question, than by those on the other side, who have the whole range of all the other English papers at their disposal.

Born an Englishman,* and bred up with feelings as well of the staunchest loyalty to my king, as of veneration for the British constitution, and of pride in my native country, I have never theless, during the course of my chequered life, nearly one half

* As it might be wondered at how an Englishman got the prefix of Mac, though it is scarcely necessary to state in Canada, where I am so well known, that that is an assumed appellation, it may be as well to explain to my readers in general, that Lewis Luke Macculloch is an anagram of my real name