

plate the Canadas in two positions: first, as independent—second, as joined to the great American Republic. We have cursorily reasoned on the probability of the first, the second merits a few reflections. Would the Canadian benefit himself in any way by enrolling his name among the citizens of American democracy? Would his liberty, his property, his social or political condition be the gainer by the transfer of his allegiance? We cannot possibly conceive any advantage resulting to either from the change. The wildest raver against the Colonial condition has never dared to aver that liberty and property were not most amply and fully protected under the mild but vigorous Government of Great Britain. Admitting then, that freedom and security from oppression are alike enjoyed by the dwellers on *both sides of the great lakes*, we confess we feel incapable of imagining any possible argument in favour of supposing that a junction with the American Union would raise the standard of social or political excellence in the Canadas, or in any wise advance the worldly prosperity of the seceder from his ancient allegiance. At present the Canadian farmer with an average amount of cleared land, cattle, and implements of husbandry, pays in actual taxation about twenty shillings. A resident in the State of New York, with exactly the same quantity of property, pays in actual taxation near twenty dollars. The former buys all his necessaries, implements of farming, his clothes, &c. &c., at a cheaper rate than the latter. The price of produce, except in particular situations, is generally as high, and sometimes much higher; and almost in no particular, except perhaps in the enviable privilege of being much more frequently called away from the plough to the ballot-box, is the free citizen of New York superior to the sturdy leveller of the London or Simcoe forests. As regards the morality of the two countries, we wish to advance no claim to any especial exemption from crime or its consequences, but we will content ourselves with asserting, that the Canadas in that particular will contrast not unfavourably to themselves with the American States, or any other civilized country on this Continent or elsewhere.

Last in place, though perhaps first in importance, in the long list of reasons which induce the honest Canadian to desire no severing, no tearing asunder, of his present political rela-

tions, is his *National feeling*—his sense of his position and character as a subject of Great Britain. Experience and observation concur in representing this feeling as burning strongly in the bosoms of the vast majority of the inhabitants of these Colonies. Persons interested in asserting the contrary may, it is true, easily adduce proofs of the occasional existence, evidenced by overt acts, of an opposite predilection, but such we strongly maintain would form only the exceptions to the rule, and but little weaken the truth of our general assertion.—The whole past history of America lies unrolled before the gaze of the sceptic in this belief, open for rigid scrutiny, teeming with undisputed evidence. When the flame of revolt spread over the greatest part of this Continent in 1775; when faith was held but an empty word, and loyalty became a stigma, the Canadians showed they had not so quickly forgotten their duty to a paternal Monarch, their respect for oaths of fealty, their sacred obligations as subjects and Christians. The baffled attempt of Montgomery on Quebec—the stiffening pile of dead, whitened with the thickly falling snow on the spot where the bravest of the storming party with their gallant leader were mowed down, bore witness to the fact that England had yet some true, true hearts and hands to guard her trans-Atlantic Empire. The later struggle of 1812–14, proved that in place of diminishing, the spirit of ancient loyalty was growing with the growth, and strengthening with the strength of our young country—within the bounds of the Canadas there seemed to be but one sentiment. No internal strife seemed to exist, save the noble rivalry between our French fellow-subjects and the settlers of British origin, in being foremost in the struggle in defence of national rights. The events of 1837–8–9 have in no wise altered the aspect or character of the loyalty of the vast mass of the Canadian population; and a just and honourable confidence in the principles of our country leads us to predict that the annals of the future will have as noble a tale to tell of the conduct of the British Americans in any national crisis, as the proud record left of their fidelity and gallant bearing in the brief but stirring history of their past existence.

Strong is the feeling of distinctive nationality planted in every breast. The Swiss for his mountains—the Gaucho for his wild savannahs—the Arab for the date tree, and the fountain