

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF CANADA

BY

HENRY LACROIX.

All nations have a certain number of timid people, whose mission is always to call out *beware* ! These are cheeks which doubtless are useful, and which at certain moments serve the great end of progress, by moderating the course of the car, by which is represented this active condition of life. The spirit which speaks by the mouth of alarmists, is itself an alarmist ; its senses are its brain ; in it all the breezes of political existence, and of material progress, have one and the same sound, — *perdition* !

Humanity has never made a step in advance that alarmists have not done all in their power to prevent it ; but there is this consolation, that they have never been able to succeed.

Providence forms the light, and distributes it everywhere ; but the concave brains which receive this light, are not suited to reflect it. Over the walls of the organ so constructed, obscurity reigns ; the ray, powerful at its focus, exists, but sheds no light around it.

The *soi-disant* friends of progress, after having been convex mirrors in the history of the past, after having produced fire and flame to enlighten all administrations, to animate them for the public good, and to make them pass not a few measures, appear as if they wished now to become concave mirrors.

The annexationists of former days, are now afraid of a simple confederation of internal powers ; they war against an elementary idea, against the very alphabet of political development. A great philosopher of antiquity rebuked, one day, an aspirant to public life, because he had not the gift of governing his own family. As much might be said of those who have a heroic courage in regard