

separation, and that a numerical majority of the one race cannot be assimilated with the minority of the other, by securing to the former the free exercise of the most proper means for preserving their distinct national prejudices, in opposition to the sentiments and feelings of the Empire. It may be assumed without fear of contradiction, that the occurrences of these two years, will be far from diminishing the force of national antipathies among the population of French origin, and while on the one hand, it is apparent that the existence of an independent French government in Lower Canada, would not be tolerated, it will not be denied on the other, that the Provincial Inhabitants of British origin, are too sensible of the advantages of a representative form of Government, willingly to contemplate the possibility of their privation of its benefits, for a period of any long duration. To destroy the seeds of animosity and discord, which unhappily prevail in this Province, to lose national distinctions in the multiplied improvements to flow from British energy and intelligence, to establish an efficient Legislature, capable of providing wise and judicious legislation, and of developing the resources of the Canadas, and to render this Province truly British, and thereby produce common interests and an united population, become of indispensable and immediate necessity.

Your Committee do not hesitate to reiterate their firm persuasion, that these results are only to be derived from the Legislative union of the Canadas, under such terms and conditions, and in such a manner as will secure a preponderance of British representation in the united Legislature: it is unnecessary to specify those terms and conditions at present, it will suffice to remark, that they are perfectly practicable, and should be of such a nature as to remove every apprehension and objection against the measure on the part of the inhabitants of the Sister Province.

The absolute division between loyalty and disloyalty to the British Government, and between attachment and opposition to British connection, exemplified in the conduct of the inhabitants of British and French origin during the rebellious outbreaks, leaves no room for hesitation as to the extent of the political privileges, which each race is justly entitled to claim, and distinctly exhibits the impolicy of continuing the system of Government heretofore pursued in reference to Lower Canada, which has only served to create feelings of hostility and separation between the two races that cannot be too greatly regretted, and which is as inconsistent with the happiness and tranquillity of the provincial inhabitants as it is opposed to just and wise principles of Colonial Government.

A return to the late system of provincial Government cannot be contemplated under any circumstances, unless it be accompanied by a decided British majority in the provincial legislature, on the ground, that since the Government itself has recognised the distinction of races, the British, as a whole, ought to possess such a proportion in that Legislature as would secure their rights and maintain their privileges, and as the only means independent of the legislative union of the Canadas, for

maintaining the connection of the colony with the parent state. The difficulties in effecting this object appear to be so formidable as absolutely to prevent its adoption.

The objections to the federation of the British North American Colonies, are so numerous and cogent and so plain as not to require being detailed here; it may however be remarked generally, that the adoption of this scheme of Government would neither palliate nor remove any of the political difficulties of this province, would leave them without remedy, and supersadd others of even greater magnitude, affecting as injuriously the Canadas as the other North American Colonies.

The Legislative Union of the Canadas, therefore, appears to offer the only comprehensive means for the vigorous improvement of both provinces in wealth and population, for the increase of the resources of the Mother Country by extending the outlets of British industry, and for the promotion of British settlements by the establishment of a well digested system of emigration.

From the same source may be anticipated the formation of a general system of provincial administration, which shall be uniformly and permanently secured, whatever may be the changes of Ministers at home or Governors abroad, and which will put an end to the weak and vacillating policy, which has so long and so lamentably marked the colonial system of the empire.

Your Committee have the gratification of directing your attention to the large debt of gratitude which is due by this Association to Robert Gillespie, Esquire, of London, for his unwearied devotion to the interests of these provinces, and to Messieurs Gould and Bliss, of London, for their zealous and willing exertions to promote colonial interests by every means in their power and upon every occasion on which their exertions were required or could be advantageous.

Your Committee, in conclusion, respectfully take the liberty of urging upon you the necessity, of employing every energy for the attainment of the chief and important object of their recommendations, of being at all times prepared to adopt such measures as will preserve British connection and conduce to the restoration of order and tranquillity in Lower Canada, and of impressing upon the people of Great Britain and Ireland and the commercial interests in those kingdoms especially, the great importance of these Provinces, to the welfare, prosperity and security of the mighty empire, to which we have the pride and satisfaction to belong.

PETER M'GILL,
CHAIRMAN.

Montreal, 31st December, 1823.

Resolved—On motion of Mr. Torrance, seconded by Mr. Shuter, That the Report of the Executive Committee now read, be received and adopted.

Resolved—On motion of Mr. Shuter, seconded by Mr. Kay, That the persons hereafter named be appointed the General Committee of this Association for the ensuing year, with power to fill up vacancies and add to their numbers if necessary, viz:—

HON P M'GILL
J D OIBT
J M TOBIN
NOAH SHAW
ROBT FROSTE
THOS MITCHELL
ALER MURPHY
WM TATE
JOHN DONELLAN
ROBT HUMBLE
WM BADGLEY
JOHN SAVAGE
JOHN TORRANCE
JOHN REDPATH
JAMES LOGAN
J THORNTON
JAMES YOUNG
JOSEPH ANDREW
THOS B WRAGO
C MITCHEBERGER
ARCHD FERGUSON
THOMAS PECK
JAMES ROY
JOHN MOLSON
J SHRIMPTON
STRATHMERE STRANG
T APPLETON
JAMES SMITH
THOS CRINGAN
DR ROBERTSON
ANDREW SHAW
WM SPIERS
WM DOW
WM WATSON
J GLENNON
JOHN MACK
STANLEY BAGG
HENRY WILSON
JAMES IRWIN
DR SMITH
SAM. GERRARD
HENRY MEYER
WM EDMONSTONE
R GILLESPIE, JR
GEO PROWSE
ANDW WHITE
W RITCHEE
M OMEARA
TURTON PENN
ADAM FERRIE
THOS M'GINN
GEO WEATHERITT
JAMES FRASER
C D DAY
WM LUDLOW
J C GUNDLACK
LOGAN FULLER
F FARISH
THOS M'GRATH
BENJ HOLMES
F SEYBOLD
JOSEPH NICKLESS
W F CHRISTIE
G H MEAD
J P SEXTON
ALEXIT MILLER
ARTHUR ROSS
J G SCHMIDT
ISAAC VALENTINE
JAMES SPEARS
J H MATTLAND
WM MOLSON
DR ARNOLD, SR
DR ARNOLD, JR
R ARMOUR, SR
J JONES (THU)
JOHN BOWER
JOSEPH SHUTER

THOMAS PHILLIPS
RICHD ROBINSON
JAMES HOLMES
ROBT WEIR, JR
LEWIS MOFFATT
DAVID TORRANCE
DR SCOTT
HENRY DYER
DR STEPHENSON
ARCHD HUME
T B ANDERSON
G JOHNSTON
W GIBBONS
J G SCOTT
GEO C DAVIES
A FURNISS
JOHN BOSTON
JOHN BLACKWOOD
BENJ HART
JOHN MAYBELL
P N ROBITER
J JONES (Amid du Peuple)
JOHN RIDDLE
N P M KURCZYNE
JOHN F. MILLS
ED MATLAND
J R BRONSDON
J H LAMBE
G MUNROE
WALTER BENNY
HON G MOFFATT
HENRY CORSE
HENRY GRIFFIN
JS BRICKMANRIDGE
JOHN B FORSYTH
JOSEPH ROSS
J G MACKENZIE
W GILGAS
WM CORMACK
JOHN ORR
M J HAYS
HEW RAMSAY
DUGALD STEWART
ALEXN YASS
W GUNN
T B ENGLISH
WM KERR
G D WATSON
GEORGE TODD
GEO BOURNE
J BENNETT
CAMPBELL SWEENEY
JAS HENDERSON
ROBT HOWARD
J S M'CORD
JOSEPH FRASER
G C FRASER
COLIN CAMPBELL
ANDREW COWAN
ERNEST IDLER
GEO PHILLIPS
GEO GARTH
ROBERT MORRIS
DAVID CHISHOLM
WM STEPHENS
J M'PHERSON
NEIL MINTOSH
WM HUTCHINSON
J S GLASFORD
JOSEPH GEROUX
J MATHEWSON
JOS MERRITT
JOHN JAMESON
NAMUM HALL
J WHITLAW
A F HARR
H L ROUTH
THOS KAY.

Mr. Fraser then took the Chair, and it was
Resolved—That the thanks of the meeting be
tendered to the Hon. P. M'Gill, Chairman of the
meeting.

P. M'GILL, Chairman,
J. GUTHRIE SCOTT, Secretary.