

some measure moved to by certain instinctive affections in the human bosom. The fondness with which parents regard their children, and children their parents, is a powerful security for the performance of parental and filial obligations. While attachment to ones native land, a deep and durable sentiment in the best natures, is a strong guaranty for the due regard of our civil obligations; and as the direct good or evil, resulting from fidelity or negligence in these instances of duty, makes an urgent appeal to our hopes and fears, obedience is enforced from selfish considerations in the absence of purer motives.

We have prelated the reflections we propose now to offer on some of the causes that have led to the present disorders in our social state, with these general views of an important law in the moral government of God, because we believe, they may be traced, when properly investigated, to a disregard of that law. Our political disturbances have arisen from the neglect of our political duties. An examination of the evil must precede reformation, and on reformation alone can we build the secure hope of future tranquillity.

At the outset of this examination we may discover in the unreasonable dissatisfaction that has long existed among us, one element of our national guilt, and one cause, and that not a trivial one, of the evils that have afflicted us. This discontent which has prevailed long and widely did not arise from any deficiency in the necessities or comforts of life. Abundant harvests crowned the labors of the husbandman; he found a ready and profitable market for whatever he brought to it; no encroachment was made, either by lawful or unlawful power, on his rightful possessions; there was no infringement of his personal or civil liberty; and, without pretending to say that public affairs have been managed exactly as they ought, we do not hesitate to affirm that those best acquainted with the world, would find it difficult to point out a spot where persons of the same class as the bulk of our population, had so much for which to be thankful, and so little for which to complain. Canada enjoys the benefit, (if benefit it be to us,) of a representative government in which the suffrage is nearly universal; over all internal affairs the local legislature has complete controul; our taxation, not worthy of the name, is all expended on internal improvement; the parent state has not only born the charge of all our defences, but has rendered her expenditure on these a source of prosperity to the colony; as a portion of the empire we enjoy several commercial advantages beneficial both to the agricultural and trading portions of the community. Notwithstanding all this, however, dissatisfaction has, in no small degree, prevailed, and infused gall into the bountiful cup that a gracious providence had else sweetly mixed for us. Inquiring into the cause of this, we think it may be traced mainly to the exorbitant and malign influence that a certain class of political writers and partizans exerted over the public mind. These were most industrious in ferreting out every instance of mismanagement in public affairs, and in holding them up with every spe-

cies of exaggeration to kindle public indignation. The same tale was repeated year after year, in every possible form to irritate and inflame. Journals devoted to this object, obtained, it is well known, for many years, the widest circulation in the province, and were at once the index of popular discontent and its cause. Party spirit, at least on the disorganizing side, was exasperated to rabid virulence, until boasting of general support, the malecontents formed the audacious design of subverting the constitution under which we live. Signally defeated in this flagitious project which they considered ripe and hopeful, a few of the principal conspirators, to escape the punishment due to their crimes, sought refuge within the contiguous republic, and by the same mendacious and exaggerated descriptions of official corruption which they disseminated here, they succeeded in rendering many in that country favorable to their designs. It is this foreign swell that continues to dash upon our shores, though our internal waters have long ago subsided into calm. We have alluded to these events not with the view of merely repeating a historical fact, but with the view of exposing a national sin. For it is criminal in any people to patronize unprincipled and factious writers—writers who have no regard to truth, whose whole efforts are directed to vilify the institutions of the country, and to create disaffection to its government. One who speaks lies will generally be despised and shunned; and yet one who daily writes them with a little tact and cleverness, will often attain popularity instead of arousing detestation. It has been so among us; and the poison of misrepresentation once absorbed, came at length to unsettle and discompose, even those who were able to detect it. Lies were read without disapprobation of the liar; treason was witnessed without abhorrence of the traitor; religion too was blasphemed without exciting condemnation of the blasphemers, and thus the subtle venom imbibed, wrought its baneful effects on not a few, perverting their moral principles, undermining their loyalty, and preparing them for those deeds of violence and blood by which revolutions are usually achieved.

From this view of popular discontent and its cause among ourselves let us next examine some of its effects without, and we may perhaps discover that we are not a little culpable for these also. The last few weeks has disclosed evidence too palpable to be denied, that multitudes in the neighboring republic had been persuaded to look upon this country as an easy and legitimate prey. For several years we have presented ourselves to them a spectacle of division. A party that once seemed to comprehend a majority of the colonists, collected a catalogue of grievances, that to those not informed of the true state of the case, would be thought to justify almost any measures. Some of the leaders of this party proceeded to organize insurrection, with the avowed design of subverting the government by force of arms, and of remodelling the whole fabric of our constitution. In several districts these revolutionary schemes were numerously