

which, opposition to the Government and laws, was carried on with such virulent contempt of decency and order, as to threaten most serious consequences to the Province, and bring the character of the administration into contempt in the eyes of the neighbouring States; whose Government was deeply interested in the progress which discontent and disaffection were making.†—The demagogues in the House of Assembly, were sensible of the effect which would be made on the mind of the Governor by their opposition;—but more especially by the confidence with which that opposition would inspire the enemies of Great Britain.—In this, however, they consulted only the fears of the Governour; and were to a man disappointed in the result.—He could not have succumbed to such a cabal, without forgetting his own character and the duties of the high and responsible situation which he filled.

The opportunity and power which the democratic branch of the Government of Lower Canada gives to the worst men in society, to embarrass the administration, and put the happiness and tranquillity of the State in jeopardy, is one of the many proofs I shall adduce, that the *Canadian proper* is not better fitted to enjoy a free Government, than he was at the time of the conquest.—Modern improvements have not reached him. He remains in most respects a living unchanged representation of the Norman peasant, in the reign of Louis XIV.—Nor are the lessons which he is daily receiving likely to alter his character for the better.—

Many things have conspired to keep the Canadian peasant almost as ignorant as his ancestor:—but the most powerful obstruction to improvement, has been the discouragement to FREE ENQUIRY, which

† The reason why I do not particularize measures and individuals, must be sufficiently evident.

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