

of the Provinces demands such a change, and that demand is in truth irresistible. Where however it may be said is the proof that such is the state of Public opinion ? The English Inhabitants of the Lower Canada are so far from demanding an Elective Council that they are ready to rise in arms to prevent it, and in the Upper Province there is conclusive proof of the existence of a very large Body of Persons who within the last 4 years have assured the King of their perfect contentement with the existing Institutions of their Country.

Now in every attempt to estimate the state of public opinion, it is reasonable to lay out of account that great mass of People,—the large numerical majority of all societies who from various motives take no real interest in public affairs, but are passive spectators, rather than active agents. An Assembly elected by a suffrage almost universal in a Country where great poverty is unknown, cannot but afford a tolerably correct criterion of the views of the more active and intelligent of their Constituents upon the great questions of Local policy. In Upper Canada Public opinion as ascertained by this test is decidedly in favor of the Change.

In Lower Canada the Democratic feelings and principles of the English Inhabitants are such as to have excited the apprehension of the Commissioners and of their Secretary that they would not scruple to throw off their allegiance and to invoke the support of the United States if the Crown should disregard their wishes. But the immediate object