

the merits of the Report on Canadian Affairs which he had just presented to the ministry.

This document, excessively verbose as it is, but drawn up with much care and art, is yet a mere piece of special pleading in favor of *anglification*; although its tenor, in the main, goes to approve the chief principles defended by the majority in assembly. Lord Durham owned, that the sojourn he made among the Canadians had quite rectified his preconceptions regarding the causes of the then existing evils which obtained among them. He expected to find a government at issue with a people; whereas he found two nationalities at war against each other in the bosom of one state: that was not a contest of principles, but a war of races; one race being enlightened, active, enterprising; the other ignorant, inert, and blindly submissive to chiefs themselves enslaved by the narrowest prejudices: among the latter, some partly tories in disguise, who sought to hide their hostility to British immigration under the semblance of a war of principles against the government; others, again, being true democrats, men really independent. "Such is the deplorable state of things," added his lordship, "produced by that conflict of races which has long estranged the populations of Lower Canada, and which at length has assumed the formidable character I have just depicted."

After enlarging upon Canadian divisions, their causes and effects, the earl proceeded to treat of the means whereby they might be reconciled; as thus,—“There are two modes of treating a conquered country. The first is, to respect the rights and the nationality of the holders of the soil: to maintain the existing laws and established institutions; to give no special encouragement to immigrants from the conquering country; and, without undertaking to change the elements of society, merely to consolidate the province under the authority of a central government. The second is, to treat the vanquished country as if it were permissible for its conquerors to look upon the inhabitants as subordinated subjects merely, and to strive at assimilating, as rapidly as possible, their character and institutions to those of the metropolitan state.” For an old-established community, the first-indicated system ought to be adopted; but in one of recent foundation, the second were preferable. Unfortunately, the American revolution had prevented the adoption of the latter in Canada, where the nationality of the people had been preserved (if only) for maintaining a barrier of alienism against our neighbors of the States.* Now that matters were changed, and there was no further need

* Despatch from Earl Bathurst to Sir J. C. Sherbrooke, dated July 1, 1816.