

inating the whole population of British descent in Lower Canada at 150,000, the persons represented by members opposed to the wishes of the majority do not exceed 40,000—a miserable minority out of a population exceeding 600,000; yet it is to the will of this minority that the present system gives effect.

It is urged that an elective Council would weaken, and ultimately destroy, the connection between the colony and the mother country. We assert, that the maintenance of the present system will not merely ultimately, but even speedily, destroy that connection. The Council is the great cause of discontent. The chief complaint of the Canadians against the Imperial Government is, not that it is itself directly and immediately oppressive, but that it maintains and supports the Legislative Council. And well may this monstrous institution be offensive to the colony. There may be differences on the question, how much of the government of the colony should belong to the colony itself, and how much to the mother country?—but most people will allow that all the power ought to belong *either* to the mother country *or* to the colony. The colony exercises its powers through its representative body. The mother country exercises its powers through the Governor; and, by means of Parliament and the Colonial Office, can hold him responsible for whatever he does in the exercise of them. But here is a third power, co-equal with these two, and representing neither the mother country nor the colony, but a band of jobbing officials solely: not only frustrating the wishes of the colony, but superseding the authority of the mother country, since the Bills which embody the demands of the people, being rejected in the Upper House, never come regularly before the Governor or the Colonial Minister at all.

Mr. Roebuck, in his pamphlet, shows conclusively that an elective Council would tend more than any other measure to prevent a rupture between the colony and the mother country. We regret that we have not space to transfer to our columns the whole of his close and logical reasoning; but we cannot resist the temptation of presenting to the reader the concluding paragraph:—

‘If’ (says Mr. Roebuck) ‘the separation be to take place violently, it will be a matter of no moment, that it is opposed by the present Legislative Council. Rather, indeed, would such opposition aid any measure of separation. The decisions of the Council have no moral force with the people, while the House of Assembly completely represents the whole population. The Legislative Council represents no part of them. Whenever the time for violent separation may come, if come it must, the assent of the Council will neither be needed nor looked for. On the other hand, if the Council were elected, and represented either the whole or a portion of the people, then its co-operation would be looked for and would be needed. There is greater difficulty assuredly