

"British ascendancy," then,—is the alarm on this score also without foundation? The consideration just urged, we reply, is of itself a full and sufficient answer. A body from twenty-five to thirty members can never be overlooked, by a government having to carry measures in the legislative branch of the legislature. And, besides, even were this not the case, the French race has still its guarantee, in the well-known temper of the majority of the Upper Canadian people, for the course their representatives must follow, in the event of the government being found disposed to build up an oligarchical interest of any sort whatever in Lower Canada. The Upper Canadians have no revengeful or angry feeling towards the French. No collision has ever taken place between them, to create such dispositions. Parties in Upper Canada are strictly political, and always have been. They are strangers to the unfortunate national animosities of the Lower Province, and are not likely, therefore, readily to become involved in them. Nor must it be forgotten, that the overwhelming majority in Upper Canada, has always shewn itself hostile to every thing like a local oligarchy in its own Province. Its political sympathies are all popular. How can it favour in the one Province, what it hates in the other?

The fourth objection to the Union remains to be considered. The interests of Lower Canada, it is feared, will be in some way sacrificed to those of Upper Canada.

How comes it, let us ask, at the outset of this inquiry,—how comes it, that the interests of the two Provinces should ever have been inconsistent, or indeed other than identical?—Whatever they may have been hitherto, whatever they may be now, can they fail to be identical, so soon as the two Provinces shall have been made one?

The Upper Province has its two paths to the ocean; by one or other of which its communications with the Mother Country must take place. How has the comparison hitherto stood between them? Their natural advantages are not far from equal; the route through the States being favoured by a climate which allows commercial intercourse to begin earlier and continue later in the year, than by the Lower Canada route; while the *almost* uninterrupted navigation of the St. Lawrence gives an immediate counter advantage to the latter. However, here, all semblance of equality has

ended. The people of the adjoining States have triumphed over gigantic obstacles, and made for themselves an artificial communication between their seaports and the Upper Canadian lakes; while the Canadas, because disunited and at variance, have not so much as overcome the comparatively trifling impediments that stood in the way of their full use of their own noble river. On one side, the Upper Canadians have had to deal with a community whose enterprise has equalled, if it did not surpass their own; on the other, with an almost complete negation of every thing like enterprise or public spirit. Here, their trade has been invited by almost every means; there, it has been as systematically repelled. Even in the matter of legislation, the United States have been allowed to hold out some superior inducements to Lower Canada; for while the Upper Canadians have themselves had no direct voice in determining the commercial laws of either of the two countries, with which, and through which they must deal, the commercial spirit of the one has led it spontaneously to adopt a system as much to the temper and interest of Upper Canada, as that which the prevailing anti-commercial habits of the other have maintained, has been at variance with both.—The consequences were unavoidable. Bound down, in some measure, by the general revenue system of the Empire, and to a much greater extent by local revenue laws which the Provinces could easily have modified to suit their own views, but for the difficulties created by their separation and jealousy of one another,—the trade of Upper Canada has been kept, for the most part, to the route of the St. Lawrence: but one small portion after all has been diverted, and much of what has not been diverted, has been retained at what many of the parties interested have thought to be a heavy sacrifice. Upper Canada has been loud in her complaints of the hardship of the system which forced her to make these sacrifices; and the subjects of commercial law, revenue and internal improvements, have been matter for perpetual dispute on her part with the Lower Province.

Reverse now this picture. Let the Canadas form one Province, and what becomes of all the apparent clashing of interests, to which their separation alone has given rise? With one and the same Executive,—a common Legislature, and consequently a harmonious sys-