

THE UNION.

THE re-union of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada is now, and must continue to be for some time to come, the engrossing topic of discussion in Canada. For although the main principles of Government are fixed by that great measure, it is yet simple and comprehensive; and it leaves such extensive powers for good or evil in the hands of the people, that before those powers come into full exercise it is essential that all should understand the breadth of the limits erected by the new Constitution, and the extent of the privileges to be enjoyed under it. When these are once fully understood, we shall be most happy to refer to the Constitution as a political text book, entitled to reverence and respect from all political parties, and to quote its provisions as unquestionable authority against innovation.

But we repeat that, in the first place, it is necessary for the Charter itself to be fully understood and appreciated; and, for the accomplishment of this end, the character of this publication demands that we should join with other portions of the public press in the discussion of political principles connected with the question of Union. We accordingly now put forth two articles, one containing a preliminary series of remarks upon the Act of Union as it affects the Lower Province, and the other

containing observations on the same Act as the interests of Upper Canadians are concerned.

Our appearance as supporters of the Government, so far as a publication like the present is capable of giving such support, originated in a declaration on our part, that we approved of the policy of Government so far as we understood it. And having received or expected no favour beyond the expression of satisfaction at the commencement of a publication in such confidence and with such a feeling, we should regret, on the one hand, to have it understood that we pretend to divine the particular views of the Government, or that we withhold our own sentiments from a fear lest they may not meet with Executive approval. Neither are we prepared to debar ourselves of the opportunity of defending our own doctrines, should they not be found to accord with Government policy. We therefore, re-state, that the opinions to which we give publicity are our own, for which we alone are accountable; and we disclaim all fear of the displeasure of Government, as well as all hope of its favour, further than the approval it must necessarily bestow on a publication undertaken in a spirit of friendliness, and with a feeling of great confidence in the judgment and sincerity of the distinguished individual who is now the representative of our Sovereign in British America.

THE UNION AS IT AFFECTS LOWER CANADA.

WE cannot be required to offer our readers any apology for occupying, as we purpose to do, a considerable portion of our first number, with the discussion of the subject we have selected for this article. A free constitution, and in many respects a new one, has been given to a Province, in which the experiment of representative government has but lately failed; and, to avoid a second failure, it has been

judged necessary not merely to make the new charter in some important particulars different from the old, but even to unite the Province which receives it, extensive as its territory is already, with another hardly less extensive.—At such a time, no subject can well possess greater interest for those whose fortunes are involved in the future prosperity or reverses of re-united Canada, than the inquiry as to the