

establish French ascendancy, and to depress British interests, may fairly be deduced from a review of their past proceedings. Without discussing the question of elective institutions which, it is obvious, cannot be introduced to the extent demanded by the Assembly, under the existing political relations of the colony, which relations we are resolute to maintain, we distinctly aver, that we are not influenced by idle apprehensions of a government of the people, and for the people; but it must be emphatically a government of "the people," truly represented, and not that of a French faction; the government of an educated and independent race, attached to the principles of civil and religious liberty; and not that of an uninformed population, striving for domination, and seeking to perpetuate in America the institutions of feudal Europe.

To the people of the sister Colonies we appeal, earnestly recommending the adoption of measures for assembling at some central point, a Congress of Deputies from all the Provinces of British North America. A British American Congress, possessing strength from union, and wisdom from counsel, by the irresistible weight of its moral influence, would supersede those other remedial measures which are the last resource of an insulted and oppressed community. On it would devolve the solemn duty, calmly to deliberate on all matters affecting the common weal, and firmly to resist all attempts to invade the rights, or impair the interests of the United Provinces.

In submitting a brief recapitulation of the objects of the Constitutional Association, it may not be misplaced to offer a few observations explanatory of the position of parties in Lower Canada, and of the sentiments of the British population towards their fellow-subjects of French origin.

The moral guilt of exciting national hostility undoubtedly rests with the French leaders, who alone benefit by the distracted state of the country; but the facility with which the French peasantry have received these impressions, and the unanimity with which they support the aggressive policy of their leaders, render them, although less culpable, yet equally the determined opponents of our rights and our liberties. Unhappily, their want of education prevents a direct appeal being made, through the press, to their judgment; but those of their countrymen who are not blinded by the infatuation of party, who possess education to comprehend, and opportunity to make known, the sentiments of the British population, may be led to reflect upon the consequences that must result from their present delusion. Should the admonition be disregarded, on them let the responsibility rest.

The province of Lower Canada, whether regarded as a part of the British Empire, or of the great North American family, is evidently destined to receive the impress of national character from those States by which she is surrounded. An obstinate rejection of all measures, having for their aim the gradual removal of those peculiarities which distinguish the population of French origin, may retard, for a time, an inevitable event, but will certainly hasten the introduction of changes of a more abrupt and decisive character.

A dispassionate examination of the changes required by the British population, will satisfy all unprejudiced men, that they are adapted to the general interests of society, are liberal and comprehensive in their character, and unconnected with party objects.

To relieve landed estate from the servitudes and exactions of feudal law;
To introduce Registry Offices, and put an end to the iniquitous frauds that grow out of the present system;

To promote works of public improvement;

To encourage agriculture, and protect commerce;

To recognize an equality of rights among all classes;

To resist the domination of sect or party, and to establish a general system of education divested of sectarian tests:—These are our objects and our demands; they are based on truth, are essential to national prosperity and to individual security; they admit of no compromise, and from them we will not recede.

The threatening aspect of the times demands action; neutrality, the usual resource of ordinary minds, will not be attended by an immunity from danger; it must remain with the population of French origin to decide, whether, by continuing to support the leaders they have hitherto selected, they are to be regarded as hostile to our just claims; or, by uniting with their fellow-subjects of British origin, they will compel the introduction of salutary reforms, consign to their native insignificance the few individuals who alone profit by the present system of misrule, and by repudiating ancient prejudices, and exclusive pretensions, place themselves in accordance with the spirit of the age.

To us, it is in one respect a matter of indifference what their decision may be. The principles we espouse are identified with the happiness of the human race; they have taken root with our language in all quarters of the globe; and wherever that language is spoken, there shall we meet encouragement, and thence shall we derive force.

Although Lower Canada presents the strange spectacle of a British Government, bestowing its confidence on men who have openly avowed their hostility to England, and their desire to effect a separation from the Empire; although by the connivance of that Government, the provincial funds have been illegally applied to reward French agitators, to support French journals, and to pay French agents; yet do we feel the proud conviction, that the energies of Britons will rise superior to the emergency, and that, despite an unnatural coalition, the banners of our country will continue to wave over a British Province.