

acts, during more than half a century, must have been set down to the account of some transient and incomprehensible hallucination.

The effect appeared in the war with America of 1812. England was at that time unable to afford any military support to her Colonies, and depended entirely upon the fidelity of her subjects of French origin; and while the militia and volunteers of Lower Canada were triumphantly engaged in arresting the encroachments and discomfitting the forces of the United States, Upper Canada was endangered by the treachery and machinations of its settled American population, and it was only by the most decided measures and severest example, that the consequences were arrested. On the termination of the war an alien bill was introduced into the province of Upper Canada, the object being to enforce upon the settlers the oath of allegiance, and the resistance that was manifested, shewed its necessity. It was at the hazard of a rebellion that it was carried into operation. A large stream of emigration, now directing itself from England, soon overbalanced the previous preponderance of American feeling, and though the new colonists were imbued with a spirit peculiarly loyal, still those who left the shores of England in the course of the present century, were very different men from those who had colonized the Southern States two centuries before; and from the amalgamation of British faction and American republicanism, resulted the idea, the doctrine, the project, the hope, of independence, or annexation to the United States. There was formed a determined purpose of taking advantage of all occasions of agitation—a looking to public wrongs and calamities as the food and the nourishment of their unreasonable purposes. Of this we have seen the practical operation. Rebellion broke out in Upper Ca-