

province, and making a new division, and adding to the number of members returned, was accordingly passed, first by the Assembly, next by the Council, subsequently received the Governor's assent, and is now part of the Canadian constitution. No objection was made to this local amendment at the time; why then should objections now be made to the principle? The answer is easy. In the former case the local oligarchy conceived themselves likely to be benefited; in the more recent case they see prospective ruin.

With the present Legislative Council the preliminary objection need scarcely have been raised, as they are not very likely to pass a Bill for their own destruction. Without their destruction, however, the pacification of Canada is impossible; and as the King has the prerogative of peer-making, under another name, there as well as here, the readiest and least troublesome way of rendering the Council elective would be to furnish the King's representative with a sufficient number of blank mandamuses, to enable him to give a majority in the Council to the views of the Assembly and of the people at large. Thus might imperial legislation—always an evil where a local legislature exists—be avoided.

The alteration in the Legislative Council has been objected to on various pretexts, some of which are curious, as exhibiting the shifts to which the enemies of responsible colonial governments are occasionally driven. One of the Commissioners, in conversation with one of the liberal party, hinted that a strong objection to granting the reform in question was, that the majority demanding the change, though overwhelming, was composed chiefly of persons of French origin, whilst the minority opposed to the change consisted chiefly of persons of British origin. If the population had not been of mixed origin, said the Commissioner, there could be no objection to the proposed change. Well, then, was the reply—try the reform in Upper Canada, where it is prayed for by a large majority, all of British origin. And how, reader, do you think the Commissioner got out of this awkward dilemma? By replying, that although of one origin, the people were not so unanimous as in Lower Canada. Here are hard conditions of reform indeed—uniformity of origin and unanimity of opinion; the alternative being no other than to give complete effect to the will of a contemptible minority!

But if the question of an elective Council were left to the decision of the people of British origin alone, it would be carried in the affirmative by a large majority. The township-counties, inhabited entirely by persons of British origin, for the most part return members favourable to the elective principle; and in one of the counties for which opponents of the principle sit, they only prevailed over their adversaries by a small majority. Esti-