

Proud England herself had her prejudices ; there was no nation without them.* Those of Lower Canada were innocent. However strangers might affect to ridicule the prejudices of countries not their own, their prejudices were the very essence of the people's happiness, and ought to be respected. Were they to be angry with the Lower Canadians because they spoke French—the elegant and fashionable language of Europe ? Were they to be angry with the Lower Canadians for the difference of their manners, laws, and religion ? If wisely considered, all these differences but added to the sure foundation and long continuance of the British empire over the whole. The Lower Canadians were a people quite distinct from the people of the United States,† Within the last two or three years, between twenty and thirty thousand British emigrants came into Lower Canada, one half of whom went over into the United States, never to return ; whilst he believed, that since the conquest of the Lower province, not ten families had removed from that province ; on the contrary, they have ever remained faithful to their king, and attached to their constitution. Under the old state of things they defended the country, as gallant and honourable men ; when providence prospered the British arms, they yielded to the necessity, and have ever since shewn themselves capable of equal fidelity to their new sovereign.—That sovereign, like a British king, the king of a brave and free people, gave to his Canadian subjects a British constitution. And now, when this change of condition was silently effecting a change in their character, when it was about to change the Frenchman into the Englishman, or rather the Frenchman into the Canadian, (for there might be, and there was, a *Canadian character distinct from the French, and though not English, properly reconcileable to, and perfectly consistent with, English feelings, English connection, and the English constitution* ;) now when the constitution was bringing about this change,

** And is there any nation (for they too are a nation as well as the Canadians) that have stronger, more singular, more barbaric, and yet more rooted, national prejudices, manners, and habits, than the Scotch, who are absolutely the Marseillois in the hideous revolution their plots had prepared for Canada ?*

L. L. M.

† It is that dissimilarity, the strong and marked distinction between the two races, that it ought to be an object with the political rulers of the British empire to keep up, foster, and invigorate, rather than destroy and dissipate ; as forming a strong, and indeed insuperable barrier, against which the most stupendous waves of American ambition and lust of extended territory, must break and be driven back.

L. L. M.