

debt of two millions sterling, I do not think her divorce from England, and her union to the American Republic, would set *her* much at her ease.

‘Those who cry out for annexation use all the arguments which form the stock in trade of revolutionists in all regions—dilapidation of the public funds, bad conduct of officials, neglect of the misery of the people, necessity for a thorough reform in the administration of affairs. There are indeed savings to be effected in the budget of Canada, and considerable reforms to be accomplished in its legislation, which presents a singular mixture of old French customs with portions of the code of England; but in order to effect these objects is it absolutely necessary to have recourse to the republican authority of the United States? Can they not be accomplished gradually by the will of the people through the votes of its Parliament?’

After some discussion of the union of the Provinces, especially the offence it had given the French party by its anticipated effect on their power in parliament, M. Marmier warns his friends that this is but a secondary danger.

‘In Annexation, on the contrary, I see the rapid and radical annihilation of all the remains of French nationality. Whatever resistance the Canadians might offer to the influence of the United States, their primitive manners must be absorbed in the flood of mercantile habits, their language effaced before another. They would become Americans. They would drown themselves in the industrial whirlpool of America, as the waters of their St. Lawrence amid the waves of the ocean. Their religion, against which England has never even lifted a finger, will be turned into derision, harassed, assailed by all those sects of new doctrines, by all those passionate declaimers who tire against papal idolatry in the American meetings—by all those sects which, under uncountable names, swarm and multiply in the States. But the Catholic religion is in Canada the keystone of nationality. Without it, adieu to the last vestige which the France of other ages has left in this distant country.’

Mr. Johnston arrives at a similar conclusion. The first movement was made by the French Romanists of the Lower Province, the second by the disgusted Conservatives of Upper Canada.

‘But,’ says he, ‘to neither of these classes would any special good flow from a union with the States. The Roman Catholic body, as a whole, would acquire more power in Congress—and with a view to this end the Romanists in the States may sympathise with and encourage their brethren in Canada to bring about the annexation; but in the Province itself they would certainly dispossess themselves of the position they occupy as the church of Canada East, and they would very much endanger the large landed possessions by which they are at present enriched. Then, as to the Conservative minority in Upper Canada, they would be driven still further from office. As was the case in the States when Jefferson came into power, the democratic element would increase in strength after the change; and a party which,