

duties on importation, into that province without the previous communication of any projected law for that purpose to the Government of Upper Canada, and the transmission of it to England for the approval of the Government there; the more consideration your Petitioners bestow on the subject, the more confirmed is there conviction that instead of palliative remedies, an effectual and complete remedy should be resorted to, and this can only be found by the union of the provinces under one Legislature.

That as British subjects, and persons whose interests are deeply involved in the prosperity of these provinces, your Petitioners cannot view the present state of affairs and their inevitable result without the most serious apprehensions. Situated as the Canadas are with respect to the United States of America, it is the interest of Great Britain to give as rapid a development to the resources of these provinces as they are capable of, and augment and increase their strength as much as possible, with a view to their continuing a distinct portion of America, secure under British protection, and furnishing Great Britain the means of exercising an important influence over that country, in such a manner as circumstances may render expedient. In furtherance of this object, it would be obviously fit that a communion of feeling and an identity of political views, with a sense of increased strength and importance, should, as far as can be produced, prevail in the two provinces; this policy is altogether counteracted by a division, which tends to increase the opposition of the inhabitants of Lower Canada to the institutions, habits and feelings of those of Upper Canada, while the latter, becoming gradually more estranged from their sister province, must be naturally and imperceptibly drawn into closer ties of connection with the adjoining states, whose inhabitants have the same laws, language, habits and manners; whereas, by the union of the provinces, the present divided parts of the population would be gradually moulded into one common mass, with the same political views and feelings, ready to act in concert, and to combine their resources for their common defence.

That from the state of the representation in Lower Canada a very large body of His Majesty's subjects, amounting, it is estimated, to 80,000 souls of British birth or of British descent, are unrepresented in the Legislature, either directly or indirectly; His Majesty's subjects of French descent having it in their power to exclude, and actually excluding from the House of Assembly all who do not fall into their views, (which views, right or wrong, it is not the present object of your Petitioners to discuss;) and the effect has been that of the vast number of emigrants who of late years have arrived from Great Britain and Ireland, probably not one twentieth part have remained within its limits, the rest have sought protection under English institutions, by settling in Upper Canada or in the United States.

That by a union of the two provinces every British inhabitant therein would be represented were some measure at the same time to be adopted to enable the township to retain members for themselves, and the claims of these inhabitants of British origin are so strongly built upon justice, that your Petitioners cannot doubt but your Honourable House would see fit to provide for the unrepresented state of these valuable and fertile portions of the province.

That the Legislature of the Lower Province has for a long time past been so much agitated by dissensions, and their deliberations so much engrossed thereby, that trade, agriculture, education and other matters of general interest have been neglected; whereas, under an enlightened and efficient Legislature, undistracted by partial views and interests, your Petitioners confidently anticipate the rapid advancement of these, together with the improvement of the navigation and internal means of communication, the establishment of an Insolvent Debtors Act, of offices for the registry of lands and mortgages, and other objects so necessary for security in commercial transactions.

That while your Petitioners thus point out to your Honourable House the necessity of, and advantages which, in their humble opinion, would flow from a union, they are far from wishing such a measure on any other than equitable principles, without innovation in the laws or religion, or without doing violence to the feelings of any party, more than may be found necessary to conduce to the general good.

May your Honourable House therefore be pleased to take these premises into your consideration; and your Petitioners rely with full confidence on your wisdom for taking such measures thereupon as will promote the best interests of these provinces, and long preserve them as valuable dependencies of the Crown of Great Britain.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

17th May, 1828.

N^o 18.
Petition of Merchants and others connected with the Canadas, dated 17th May 1828.