

*From the London Courier of 31st January, 1823.*

LOWER CANADA.

*Extract of a private letter, dated Nov. 13, 1822.*

"It is evident the Canadians will make a spirited opposition to any alteration in the constitution given them by his late Majesty. People at home seem to be very ill informed of the population, resources, and mode of government of the Canadas, or of the elementary parts of which that government is composed. The Canadians, or people of French origin in Canada, form about eight-ninths of the population—the remainder are English\* or Americans; generally speaking the mass of Canadians are wretchedly ignorant, but the noblesse, laymen, and some of the clergy would succumb to none in point of talent. Some forty or fifty of them put in motion the whole Canadian population,† who are as devoted as ever were the Scotch clans in feudal times. Although, perhaps fifteen or sixteen of the present race are born English subjects,‡ yet their prejudices, national antipathy, manners, and customs are as decidedly French as they were at the conquest.

*(To be continued)*

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After the paragraph relative to the remarks made by the Herald on the custom of the Charrivari, was in type, I received an account of the late unfortunate occurrence in Montreal, which I mean to take up in next number; to defend that laudable and ancient custom, and unequivocally to condemn the arbitrary, absurd, and now sanguinary, opposition that has been made to its observances.

The further explanation of my sentiments as to the Scotch nation is shut out for want of room.

\* *No, of the remainder perhaps one hundredth part only is English; the bulk is Scotch, with probably about one fifth Americans, and half as many Irish.*

† *This evidently alludes to the house of assembly, and gives a very erroneous idea of the matter. The seigneurs, landholders, clergy, and influential men amongst the Canadians are infinitely more numerous; and if the people must be divided between those who are the influencers, and those who are the influenced, it must be allowed that there are at least as many men of talent, learning, ability and influence amongst the Canadians, as the entire numerical population of the Scotch, &c. amounts to; that is, forty or fifty thousand; and if only one tenth of these are active in directing the views and measures of their countrymen, still, it can not be said that the Canadian population is put in motion by a body of intelligent and enlightened men less in number than four or five thousand,—so much for the demagogy which has been so jalsely attributed to the principal men of the Canadian party.*

*This is evidently a clerical or typographical error, 15 or 16 for fifteen sixteenths.*