

possess vast territories, covered with timber of excellent quality, which would be equally available as it is now, since under the free trade system our vessels would sell as well in England after annexation as before.

The simple and economical State Government, in which direct responsibility to the people is a distinguishing feature, would be substituted for a system at once cumbrous and expensive.

In place of war and the alarms of war with a neighbour, there would be peace and amity between this country and the United States. Disagreement between the United States and her chief, if not only, rival among nations would not make the soil of Canada the sanguinary arena for their disputes, as under our existing relations must necessarily be the case. That such is the unenviable condition of our state of dependence upon Great Britain is known to the whole world, and how far it may conduce to keep prudent capitalists from making investments in the country, or wealthy settlers from selecting a fore-doomed battle-field for the home of themselves and their children, it needs no reasoning on our part to elucidate.

But other advantages than those having a bearing on our material interests may be foretold. It would change the ground of political contest between races and parties, allay and obliterate those irritations and conflicts of rancour and recrimination which have hitherto disfigured our social fabric. Already in anticipation has its harmonious influence been felt—the harbinger may it be hoped of a lasting oblivion of dissensions among all classes, creeds, and parties in the country. Changing a subordinate for an independent condition, we would take our station among the nations of the earth. We have now no voice in the affairs of the Empire, nor do we share in its honours or emoluments. England is our parent state, with whom we have no equality, but towards whom we stand in the simple relation of obedience. But as citizens of the United States the public service of the nation would be open to us—a field for high and honourable distinction on which we and our posterity might enter on terms of perfect equality.

Nor would the amicable separation of Canada from Great Britain be fraught with advantages to us alone. The relief to the Parent State from the large expenditure now incurred in the military occupation of the country—the removal of the many causes of collision with the United States, which result from the contiguity of mutual territories so extensive, the benefit of the larger market which the increasing prosperity of Canada would create, are considerations which, in the minds of many of her ablest statesmen, render our incorporation with the United States a desirable consummation.

To the United States also the annexation of Canada presents many important inducements. The withdrawal from the borders of so powerful a nation, by whom in time of war the immense and growing commerce of the lakes would be jeopardized,—the ability to dispense with the costly but ineffectual revenue establishment over a frontier of many hundred miles,—the large accession to their income from our Customs,—the unrestricted use of the St. Lawrence, the natural highway from the Western States to the ocean,—are objects for the attainment of which the most substantial equivalents would undoubtedly be conceded.

FELLOW COLONISTS:

We have thus laid before you our views and convictions on a momentous question, involving a change which, though contemplated by many of us with varied feelings and emotions, we all believe to be inevitable,—one which it is our duty to provide for and lawfully to promote.

We address you without prejudice or partiality,—in the spirit of sincerity and truth,—in the interest of our common country,—and our single aim is its safety and welfare. If to your judgment and reason our object and aim be at this time deemed laudable and right, we ask an oblivion of past dissensions; and from all, without distinction of origin, party or creed, that earnest and cordial co-operation in such lawful, prudent, and judicious means as may best conduct us to our common destiny.

[969 signatures.]

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

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EXTRACT from a REPORT of a COMMITTEE of the Honourable the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, dated 1st December, 1849, and approved of by His Excellency the Governor-General on the same day.

THE Committee of the Executive Council have had under consideration, on your Excellency's reference, certain letters addressed to Mr. Secretary Leslie by individuals holding commissions during the pleasure of the Crown, whose names appeared to an Address to the people of Canada, which was lately published in several of the newspapers of the province, and in which address, separation from the British Empire and annexation to the United States of America, are recommended as a remedy for certain evils under which the province is therein alleged to be labouring. These letters are in reply to inquiries made by Mr. Secretary Leslie, as to whether the name of the parties referred to had been attached to the Address by themselves, or with their consent. The Committee of Council observe, that some of the parties called on for explanation by Mr. Secretary, complain of this as an invasion by the Executive Government of their constitutional rights as British subjects. The Committee of Council, however, see nothing in the step thus taken partaking of such a character. There can be no doubt, in the opinion of the Committee of Council, that your Excellency must feel bound by a sense of duty as well to our beloved Sovereign and to the empire at large, as to the entire people of Canada, not only to maintain the connection with the parent state by the fullest exercise of all the powers conferred on you by Her Majesty, but to discourage by all the means constitutionally within your control any attempt calculated to impair it. In the performance of this duty, there can be no desire to question any one upon mere abstract specula-