

Chap. the liberal policy and enlightened wisdom of the british government,
 xxiii. being eminently calculated to remove national prejudices derived
 1822. from difference of origin, and to consolidate the whole population of
 both provinces into one homogeneous mass, animated by the same
 views for the public interest, and the same sentiments of loyalty
 towards their common sovereign."

These may be taken as expressive of the views of the universality of the inhabitants of british origin in these townships. Meetings in support of the intended union were also held in the townships of Hatley, Shefford, Farnham, Stukely, Granby, and West Bolton, Odelltown, and Caldwell Manor, and at various places in Upper Canada. The unionists in Quebec, more reasonable and just in their views perhaps, than those in any other part of the province, in petitioning parliament, expressed themselves as follows:—

"As the re-union of the two provinces has been proposed in the imperial parliament, they beg leave to express their entire acquiescence in the adoption of that measure, upon such principles as shall secure to all classes of his Majesty's subjects in these provinces, their just rights, and protect the whole in the enjoyment of existing laws and their religion as guaranteed—such a union would, in the opinion of your petitioners, afford the most effectual remedy for existing evils, as it would tend gradually to assimilate the whole population in opinions, habits and feelings, and afford a reasonable hope that the wisdom of the united legislature would devise a system of government of more consistency and unity, and of greater liberality to all classes than has hitherto been experienced.

"A union on the equitable principles humbly suggested by his Majesty's petitioners, will necessarily include a representation proportionate, as near as possible, to the numbers, wealth, and resources of the different classes of inhabitants of these provinces;—will require no innovation in the laws or religion of the country, nor proscription in debate or motion in the legislature, of the language of any portion of the inhabitants, in every class of whom, bravery and loyalty have been evinced as fellow soldiers in defence of the province."

The petition from the town and district of Three Rivers, contained the following passages:—

"Your petitioners are impressed with a firm conviction that the present organization of the province of Lower Canada, and that of its house of assembly, are of a nature and composition too heterogeneous ever to assimilate its population in manners, customs, language, or feeling. That invidious distinctions, and asperities are the natural consequences which must arise, and ever continue to flow, from these causes. That no fair and equal portion of british feeling, or interest is ever likely to be created, or maintained in the popular branch of the legislature, during the continuance of the present state of things.

"That it is our firm conviction that these and many other evils of vital detriment to the growing prosperity of both provinces, originate primarily from the injudicious sub-division of the late province of