

The toast having been drunk amidst great applause,

The GOVERNOR GENERAL rose to reply. He said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada—before proposing my health, Sheriff Kilan took occasion to observe that I had come here at a considerable personal inconvenience. I did not consider, however, that there was any difficulty in that respect. I was anxious to come here on my own account, and the difficulty arose simply from my having made all my previous arrangements, and those arrangements affecting other people, whom I did not exactly care to put out of their way in order to please myself. But I am exceedingly glad that I have been able to arrange to meet the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada. Of personal inconvenience to me there has been none, but it has been ten times greater than you suppose. I would willingly have undergone it for what I have seen to-day. (Cheers.) I was anxious to be present with you on several accounts. I would be anxious to have the opportunity at any time of meeting a body of gentlemen connected with agriculture, that which I consider to be the staple occupation of Canada, and most contributing to her prosperity, what I hope will be her great and signal prosperity and progress in the history of the world. [Cheers.] I would have been anxious to meet such a body of gentlemen at any time, but I was more particularly anxious to do so, on the first occasion of my setting foot in the Upper Province, after assuming the trust and confidence reposed in me by our gracious Queen in appointing me to act as her representative here. I need say no more on that point. I can see that the Agricultural Associations of Upper and Lower Canada are respectively at once the means and the measure of the progress of the country. They not only diffuse information and afford a stimulus which urges one into a generous rivalry with every body around him, but they measure from year to year the progress that is made in that most useful of all sciences and of all arts, if I may so call it, the application of theory to practice. I have been told his very day by gentlemen who recollect the last agricultural exhibition in Cobourg that the progress they observe is most gratifying. They see the effect of these exhibitions growing from year to year. They mark in the same district among the same individuals, or among the sons and descendants of those individuals, how the breed of stock and the growth of grain have improved, and how the benefit of science and industry has been poured out upon the soil, until it has produced that abundance which at the present moment enables you to pour the superfluities of your granaries into France and England, and to possess the character of being really one of the great wheat producing countries of the world. [Cheers.] Such Canada is already, and I trust she will long remain so. [Cheers.] I have said that I am happy to meet the Agricultural Association on my first entry into Upper Canada. And I am especially happy to meet you at the moment when the heart of every subject of our Gracious Queen must throb with exultation at the latest glorious triumph of the French and British alliance. [Loud Cheers.] I take that alliance to have a significance and an importance in the history of the world, which people at the present moment cannot appreciate. I see those two flags banded there side by side and I rise just after hearing your drink with proper enthusiasm the health of our Queen and the health of the Emperor of the French. [Cheers.] I am firmly convinced that if the present war leaves behind it a firm and steadfast adherence

on the part of the people of England and France to one another, it will produce greater good to the world than any public event that I know of. [Cheers.] One reason why I look upon that alliance with interest and confidence is, because I believe that it will introduce a complete change into the system of regulating what is called the balance of power. I believe that the alliance of France with England will give a new colour to every public event for centuries to come, and I trust that it may be as firmly cemented, and remain as solid as all that lately passed at Paris seemed to promise to us. (Cheers.) You may say, these events will affect Europe more than they affect us. In some sense they do so, but I believe that for the elements of the balance of power hereafter, if France and England are allied, we will have to look to both sides of the Atlantic and I believe that Canada will not be without its weight among those elements. [Hear, hear.] There is also a moral which I shall draw from these considerations of a domestic character, if I may be permitted to do so—not of a political character, but having direct reference to your own present condition. Your Legislature has been settled in Lower Canada for four years. Your members from Upper Canada have been leaving the nature of the country, and have been conciliating any prejudices that might exist, by living in good fellowship and brotherhood with their French brethren. And now that the French members from Lower Canada are coming up to live among you for a certain time, and are going to perform legislative duties in the midst of you, I have no doubt that you will heartily welcome them and receive them as brothers. It has struck me lately that it would be one of the most absurd things in the world if the French and English in Canada were to take to quarrelling just as the French and English in all the rest of the world are uniting together in amity. I think it would be one of the most foolish exhibitions that could be witnessed. [Cheers.] And therefore it is that I have too much confidence in the good sense of the people both of Upper and Lower Canada, to expect ever to see any such thing. [Cheers.] I believe you will think that, whatever little differences and difficulties you may have, you must rely on the wisdom of your own statesmen, whom you have among you, if you only choose the right ones as your representatives. Let those men smooth over those difficulties, and devise means for completely getting rid of them, but do not thrust yourselves into measures that will ruin the future consequence and prosperity of your country, for the sake of these petty differences. I have very little more to say on matters of a general character. I have remarked on those matters which give particular importance to the present occasion, and I have spoken as much as I could with reference to the French alliance. And a singular fact comes across me at the moment, that if I were to desire to express my theories of Colonial Government and Colonial Trade in the shortest and most concise manner, I should express them in the words of a celebrated French statesman, who lived in the last century, and who, in a report addressed to the French Ministry, in the year 1776, before the American War was concluded, used nearly the following language:—"Wise and happy will that nation be, which shall first consent to see in its Colonies allied Provinces, not mere dependencies of the mother country." [Applause.] So much for the Colonial Government. With regard to Colonial Trade, he goes on to say:—"Wise and happy will that nation be which will consent to recognize as the only principle of consequence in commerce the employment of