

attributed to the want of proper attention on the part of both governments in superintending the revenues of the provinces: he was convinced those differences might and could be settled and amicably arranged in a much more satisfactory manner than by the present measure. Our commercial and financial relations with Lower Canada, might very easily be regulated without depriving us or them of the constitution. It was said that the anti commercial spirit of Lower Canada was injurious to Upper Canada. he could not perceive the injury. If the Lower Canadians were anti-commercial, it would rather affect themselves, while it left a wider field for others; and the fact was that the English settlers or merchants of Lower Canada had amassed immense fortunes, whilst the Canadians remained content and happy with more moderate things. But those gentlemen, the commercial faction, jealous that the Canadian gentry, respected by the people, and every day more and more approaching to the importance and weight of the English landed interest, should retain their influence in the councils of that province, have contrived this project in order to grasp this influence to themselves* as more consoling to their pride, and, as they imagine, more commensurate with their wealth; and thus bring ruin on the country. Thus, in his mind, was the sole motive which influenced the projectors of this great, unnatural and calamitous change, which was about to befall these provinces; A CHANGE MOST FATAL TO OUR CONNECTION WITH OUR PARENT-STATE. Was it, he would ask, an anti-commercial spirit that led to the revolt of the late colonies, now the United States? No, it was a high-wrought commercial ambition, the very thing these innovators would recommend: not that he meant to charge them with this view or intention, but that it shewed the blindness and madness of the project, and he was sure, if it were carried into effect, would sooner or later, and perhaps at no distant period, LEAD TO A SIMILAR UNHAPPY RESULT. National prejudices were also brought in accusation against the Lower Canadians. To speak of national prejudices with contempt, argued a want of humanity, and, in a statesman, a want of wisdom. Every country had its prejudices.—

*It might have been added too that they grasp at the property, the lands, and inheritances of the old Canadians; for thus they want a registry bill, that they may pry into family and hereditary titles, that they may select the fairest spots as doomed to change masters, fetter the proprietors by insidious loans on mortgage, and add acre to acre, farm to farm, and estate to estate, till there shall be no tiers etat, nor no noblesse, but only an oligarchical parcel of upstart traders in possession of the fair lands, and fiefs, and seignories of the original colonists
I. L. M.