

cation of which these same Americans are so proud—roads to bind together the villages, canals to unite the great rivers, railways to transport goods and travellers from north to south. From the nature of the soil and the cheapness of materials, railways can be here constructed as cheaply as in the United States. The one which already reaches St. Hyacinth, and which is to be prolonged to Portland, costs only half a million of francs per league, while in France it would cost double the sum. For myself it gives me pleasure to believe in the future of Canada. I see there a fertile soil which, sooner or later, cannot fail to attract colonies of labourers, and on this soil already an honest people amidst whom it is a comfort to sojourn.

It will be observed that in the following sentences M. Marmier states of the Lower Canadians precisely what Mr. Johnston has asserted of the inhabitants of the Upper Province:—

‘ If they have preserved the virtues of their French nature, they have also kept its defects. Mobile and impressionable, they are prompt to enthusiasm, and not less so to despair. They could not see the fortune of their Republican neighbours without envying it; and they thought that if they did but enter the Union, they would immediately open for themselves a road paved with dollars. Hence those everlasting dissertations by a dozen of journals, and those meetings where the same theme is reproduced with inexhaustible emphasis. Very many, however, of those who declaim on this subject do not believe that it is realizable, and use it only as a means of agitation. Who in truth can believe that England will consent not only to dispossess herself of Canada, but to give up this vast country to her maritime rival? Some say that Canada brings in nothing to England—nay, that she is even a source of considerable expense. Were this true, and could we consent to value the dependencies of a great empire merely by the number of crowns they pay into its treasury, it would remain not less true that Canada contributes to enrich the commerce of Great Britain, and is every year becoming a more important point of colonization. Again, even supposing that Britain had not the slightest pecuniary interest in the preservation of that country, she must continue bound to hold by it from a sentiment of national pride; she must feel that she could not abandon it without branding herself with the stamp of feebleness in the face of the whole world, and without levelling a serious blow at her whole imperial system. Lastly, if, in spite of all these considerations, she were to welcome complaisantly the addresses of the Annexationists, there would remain some financial questions which could not fail to be rather embarrassing: one of these being the debt of nearly a million and a half sterling, contracted by Canada; another, all the money that England has expended on the fortress of Quebec, &c., &c., &c., and the repayment of which she would most certainly insist on. Are the United States so much in love with Canada as to take her with all her debts? I hardly think so. And if, while accepting her share of the expenses of the Federal government, Canada found *herself*, moreover, burdened with a private debt