

recover, and which would have a lasting influence in advancing the prosperity of the British Colonies. These sentiments he conveyed to the minister's friends, with such remarks on the practicability of the enterprise, and the manner of conducting it, as his intimate knowledge of the state of things in America enabled him to communicate. They made the impression he desired, and the result verified his prediction.

The same ripe judgment that saw the importance of Canada for England in order to give her control over the lakes and the west, saw it for the colonies also ; and thus Franklin was most discreetly selected for this responsible mission.

On the 2nd of April, 1776, Franklin, Chase, and the Carrolls, properly accounted for so fatiguing a journey of over four hundred miles, departed from the city of New York in a sloop for Albany.

These gentlemen had, of course, been duly commissioned by congress "to promote or to form a Union between the colonies and the people of Canada ;" and on the 20th of March they received their ample instructions.

They were told to represent to the Canadians that the arms of the United Colonies had been carried into that Province for the purpose of frustrating the designs of the British Court against our common liberties ; that we expected not only to defeat the hostile machinations of Governor Carlton against us, but that we should put it in the power of our Canadian brethren to pursue such measures for securing their own freedom and happiness as a generous love of liberty and sound policy should dictate to them.

They were desired to inform them that, in the judgment of congress, their interest and that of the colonies were inseparable united. That it was impossible we could be reduced to a servile submission to Great Britain without their sharing in our fate ; and, on the other hand, if we obtained,