

It is questionable whether any conquered country was ever better treated by its conquerors than Canada; the people were left in complete possession of their religion, and revenues to support it — of their property, laws, customs, and manners; and even the defence of their country is without expense to them. . . . It would seem as if the trouble and expense of government was taken off their hands, and as if they were left to enjoy their own domestic comforts without a drawback. Such is, certainly, the appearance of the population; and it is doubtful whether our own favoured communities are, politically, more happy.

Lower Canada is a fine country, and will hereafter become populous and powerful, especially as the British and Anglo-American population shall flow in more extensively, and impart more vigour and activity to the community.

After such testimony as this, I cannot bring myself to the belief, that the Canadians are really suffering under the rule of Great Britain, or that we are guilty of the gross acts of injustice and illiberality which are laid at our door; and, in consequence, I have little confidence in the patriotism of those who, under such circumstances, would excite a happy people to acts of rebellion; exciting them, too, through their worst prejudices, and a hatred of the British race.

It has been argued that the most prudent step, on the part of the Government, would be at once to adopt measures for dissolving the connection which exists between the mother country and the colony. If the time had really arrived for effecting the separation, then I fully concur with the Honourable Member for Bridport (Mr. Warburton), that the object of the Government ought to be to effect it in such a way as would secure for this country all the advantages to be derived from a friendly intercourse with the new state. But when I consider that even in Lower Canada the British settlers are at least one third of the entire population, comprising almost an entirety of the enterprise and commercial wealth of the colony; when I consider that the population of Upper Canada is almost ex-