

a census took place, the population of Lower Canada was found to be 697,000 persons, out of which 524,000 were of French descent; the remaining 156,000 being of British or foreign blood: while, among the general total, 578,000 were catholics.

Lastly, in 1840, our provincial revenue reached £184,000, while the public expenditure was but £143,000. At the present time (1859) with the aid of some modifications in our fiscal laws, the conjoint revenues of the two Canadas reach a total of £1,500,000, while the expenditure is £1,600,000.

We are about to terminate this history. The Union of the two provinces necessarily marks one of the great stages of Canadian annals. The latest-occurring events we have recorded would have remained without any very precise signification, without the reader's taking into consideration that union act, the manner of passing which at once explains the nature of the measure itself, and the tendencies of metropolitan feeling in our regard. If, in retracing the foregoing events, we may have wounded the susceptibilities of certain races, or of some individual men composing them,—or should we have excited the jealousies of any partisans or placemen, we shall merely observe, adapting to our own use the general apology made to his readers by M. Thiers, in the prelude to his *Histoire de la Révolution Française*, that “we have performed our task without animosity; ever compassionating error, ever revering virtue, and admiring true greatness, while constantly striving to fathom the designs of Providence regarding the fate which is reserved for us, and respecting providential purposes as soon as we think that we have discerned their real nature.”

CONCLUSION.

By uniting the two Canadas, England maintained her policy, in this respect, that she thus merged in one people the different nationalities which previously existed in the two colonies. No nation had greater facilities than she, in this by no means easy matter. She was guided by the experience of centuries past. In like manner had she at first absorbed the nationality of her Norman* Conquerors, then that of the Scotch, and then of the Irish. In carrying out her object, she was not precipitate: slowly, and with due precaution, she proceeded to make use

* The French language was not set aside in the English parliament till the 15th century; that body, however, still maintaining its French name.