

THE FREE PRESS.

VOL. I.J. MONTREAL, THURSDAY, 14th Nov. 1822. [No. 6.]

*Servemus leges patrias; infirma minoris
Vox cedat numeri, parvique in parte, silescat.*

PRUDENTIUS.

Still let us our forefathers' laws uphold;
And let the few, tho' clamorous and bold,
Yield to the many, and in silence rest,
Nor with their selfish plots, our peace molest.

Of the many essays that have appeared in the public prints, on the subject of the union between Upper and Lower Canada, that which was published, under the signature of Z. in the Canadian Courier of the 2d instant, seems to me to be one most deserving of reply and refutation. Other writers on the same side of the question, have almost entirely confined themselves to generalities, to vague declamation, and unsupported assertion. Z. however, without that excess of wordiness which characterises the effusions of his party, enters into facts and details, and comes to the point without much ceremony or circumlocution. The hostility of the Gallo-Canadians to the projected union, he ascribes to three motives;

- 1st. Because they expect to lose the preponderancy in the assembly.
- 2d. Because their religion and laws may suffer innovation.
- 3d. Because the English language would be to be used in the assembly, in fifteen years.

Although there are, in my opinion, others, and far more weighty, motives, such, for instance, as—Because they would lose the proper privilege of an English house of commons, that of providing for, and controlling, the public expenditure—Because the executive part of the government would acquire an exorbitant and undue influence and power—Because they would then be still more subjected to the arrogant dominion of a set of needy Scotch adventurers, that are annually vomited on our shores, for the purpose of being fattened and returned—Because the United provinces would be rendered infinitely more vulnerable, both in peace and in war, to the intrigues and the hostilities, of our cunning and ambitious neighbours—Because, though they desire not to be independent of Great Britain, they desire to be an independent portion of her empire, subject to her imperial control, but not subject to proconsu-