

separately in a minority, and they differ so widely that they cannot act together. Both principles are therefore safe, and they are both essential to the prosperity of the country.

In speaking of rendering Canada British throughout, we mean that its legislation shall be British, emanating from a British majority in the legislature; for to conduct the government in harmony with the Assembly, it is essential that the majority be a British majority, in order to secure unity of character and action with the central authority of the empire. A foreign nationality cannot be made the ruling principle in a British Colony. It is possible to observe British forms in legislation, and yet depart so widely from their true spirit as to endanger the supreme authority that should control the whole. It is not enough that forms are observed, if the spirit that inspires them be derived from a foreign source, and aim at building up a foreign character. British nationality operates of itself as a check on every scheme that would tend to sever British connexion; whereas a foreign nationality is not only no such check, but it operates precisely in a contrary manner, and tends of itself to sever the union, instead of to render it perpetual. It was therefore necessary before submitting the government to the action, and in some degree the control, of the popular branch of the legislature, to secure for it a British character and action. There is no reason, however, to apprehend that any legislation will be sanctioned that does not proceed on an enlightened regard to the true interests of the Lower Canadians.

The character of the province and the nature of its government being thus determined, there is an end to discussions on "theoretical points of government" in the legislature, which will henceforth be occupied in matters of a practical nature, "the amelioration of their laws, the advancement of their commerce, and the improvement of their country." After a long course of contention, the government has assumed the character which it will keep. It will rule by the principles of the British constitution, so far as they are applicable, and all further change will be steadily resisted. The cessation of party strife on speculative princi-

ples of government will have a happy effect on the province. Hitherto the legislature has spent a large part of its time and energies in angry discussions on "theoretical points." The real business of the country has been hastily and imperfectly managed, or often omitted altogether, that legislators might indulge in wayward speculations on first principles, straying far and wide in endless mazes lost. So fruitful were these controversies that half a session has been ere now consumed in them. This expenditure of money, time, and strength, this continual wrangling about disputable political theories, will now be stopped, and the legislature will be at liberty to employ itself solely in those practical measures of great public benefit which the country so much requires. This we conceive to be the great effect or public benefit of the elections; they have decided those vexed questions which disturbed the public peace, and thereby have left the province free to pursue a noble career of extensive public improvement. It is quite possible that some individuals may attempt to revive bygone discussions on "theoretical points," but they will meet no countenance in the legislature. Their "occupation is gone." They cannot instruct or alter, and they will hardly be allowed to distract and delay. The great questions that have agitated the public mind are settled, the character of the government is established, speculative political controversy is determined, and we may look forward with pleasure to a peaceful course of practical reforms and general improvement in all that can render a people intelligent, prosperous and happy.

In the list of members returned that was published in the last number of the *Review*, there were three blanks, the returns having not been made. For Kent, there is no return, and there must be a new election. For Shefford, Dr. Foster, and for Stanstead, Marcus Child, Esq., have been returned; but a protest has been entered against the return for Stanstead, on the ground that above 100 illegal votes were polled for Mr. Child. This is therefore another case to be examined and decided by the Assembly.

The friends of the opposing candidate (Dr. Colby) say they can prove that he has a majority of 50 legal votes.