

20 PAPERS *relative to the* REMOVAL of the SEAT of GOVERNMENT.

CANADA.

southern shore of the St. Lawrence, and the other on the north of that river, is a striking example of the observation here made. The one is a citizen of the United States, the other a subject of England, a Canadian colonist. The one has a country which he can call his own: a great country already distinguished in arms, in arts, and in some degree in literature. In his country's honour and fame the American has a share, and he enters upon his career of life with lofty aspirations, hoping to achieve fame for himself in some of the many paths to renown which his country affords. She has a senate, an army, a navy, a bar, many powerful and wealthy churches; her men of science, her physicians, philosophers, are all a national brotherhood, giving and receiving distinction. How galling to the poor colonist is the contrast to this, which *his* inglorious career affords! *He* has no country—the place where he was born, and where he has to linger out his life unknown to fame, has no history—no past glory, no present renown. What there is of note is England's. Canada is not a nation; she is—a *colony*—a tiny sphere, the satellite of a mighty star in whose brightness she is lost. Canada has no navy, no army, no literature, no brotherhood of science. If, then, a Canadian looks for honour in any of these various fields, he must seek it as an Englishman; he must forget and desert his country before he can be known to fame."

If all these substantial arguments in favour of annexation remain unchanged, or have been strengthened by lapse of time, you will certainly not be deterred from pursuing the course indicated as desirable, by the arbitrary commands of those who assume to be your masters. Those who addressed you were known to be beyond suspicion of seeking personal emolument from the public funds. They employed no force but that of reason—they repudiated every means but that, most lawful—the assent of every constituted authority in the State. They desired to fortify, and where necessary, to create a public opinion in favour of their views, which should be manifested, not on paper merely, but in that authoritative way which the constitution has contemplated, in giving to the people the right of electing their legislators. They therefore did not endeavour to obtain all the names which might have been procured to the document they put forth. They were satisfied, when they had enrolled sufficient adherents without solicitation, to show that they were not a few deluded men, acting without warrant of wide-spread public thought. How have they been replied to? Their opponents have sent agents through the most populous counties immediately adjoining the city unexpectedly favoured by the removal of the seat of Government. As well there, as in this city, they have employed against us every influence derived from official patronage, and yet how trifling has been their success!

In the absence of argument, persecution has been resorted to by an Executive, affecting to owe its existence to the popular will, against such as dared assert the right, not of British subjects merely, but of intellectual beings,—the right of thought and of free discussion.

Fellow-colonists, will you submit to have your free political action suppressed by such means? Are your servants to dictate to you the subjects which may engage your attention, and prohibit all others under pain of their interference and censure? We trust not. We feel assured that you will be the more inclined to support those who have been opposed, by means which we will not characterise otherwise than as oppressive. We now call on such of you as are favourable to our views, to exert yourselves in order that the great object before us may be speedily attained. All agree in believing that annexation is inevitable; a mere question of time. It is our conviction that there can be no settled policy—no established public credit—no cessation of political strife—no prosperity—until we reach the state to which we are destined. Let us then unite to secure it as early as possible.

JOHN REDPATH,
President.

R. MACKAY,
A. H. DORION,
Secretaries.

Montreal, 15th December, 1849.

* * * The Annexation Association of Montreal begs to thank such portions of the Press as have lent them assistance for the able aid they have afforded. The Association, while it recognizes no exposition of its views, except those which shall be signed by its officers, feels a deep debt of gratitude to those who have generously stood up for truth and the people, against the obloquy which have been cast on both.