

from their situation they cannot carry on any Foreign Commerce but by the Intervention and Assistance of the Merchants of Quebec and Montreal, they will therefore have little occasion to Correspond with Great-Britain, and few opportunities of mixing in the Society of Britons. How far these circumstances may operate in gradually weakening their Attachment to this Kingdom I shall leave to the Reflection of the Honourable Members.

These are considerations which I have no doubt will have due Weight with this Honourable House ; and there are many others of a general Political nature equally strong and perhaps more pointed against this Innovation, which will necessarily occur in the consideration of the Subject. But there is one consideration, which is of the utmost Importance to the Tranquility of the People inhabiting all the parts of that Country, and which will alone, I hope, be sufficient to engage this Honourable House to reject the Plan of a new independent Government. I beg leave to request that the Honourable Members will recollect and attend to the Geographical situation of that Country, from which it will appear evident that no Vessel of any kind can proceed farther up the River St. Lawrence than the City of Montreal, on account of the Rapids, which are immediately above that Town. Of course, as every article of Necessity, or Luxury which the Inhabitants of the upper Districts have occasion for from Britain, or any Foreign Country must come to them by the River St. Lawrence, they must be landed at, or below Montreal, where they must be stored by the Merchants of Quebec, or Montreal until Carriages and Boats are provided to send them forward ; likewise, that every article of Produce which the People of these upper Districts wish to export, must be sent in Boats to Montreal; or perhaps to Quebec for the purpose of being shipped for exportation ; and that as well the articles of import as of export must in passing through the Lower Country, become subject to the Laws, Regulations, Duties, and Taxes, which may be imposed by the Legislature of the Lower Country. Now, supposing the Division to take place,

as